



Key References:

2 Timothy 4:3–5 (ESV)

³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Proverbs 3:5–8 (ESV)

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

James 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Joshua 1:7–9 (ESV)

⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

1 – BIBLICAL TRUTH VS. CULTURAL VALUES

Read 2 Timothy 4:3-5. **What do you think the writer meant by people having “itching ears”? In what way does every person find teachers to suit their own passions, why does this happen? How has culture recently been wandering off into myths and turning from truth?**

As you listen to conflicting ideas from culture and truth from The Bible what have you found hardest to work through? (you may not be able to answer all the responses to this, feel free to revisit points in later groups after seeking perspective from leadership at Oceanside)

Read Proverbs 3:5-8. **Does this scripture make it seem like we will ever have a complete understanding in the battles between biblical truth and cultural values? What does this scripture say about a culture that is “wise in their own eyes”?**

How is it challenging not to lean on our own understanding? What things are you currently having to trust Him with on this topic?

Proverbs 3:7 tells us not to be wise in our own eyes. **How can we go about getting the wisdom that God wants us to have?**

Read James 3:17. **What stands out to you from this verse about how human intellectual augments compare to Godly wisdom? How does this scripture reveal how we are to conduct ourselves?**

2 – WISDOM COMES FROM RELATIONSHIP

Read Joshua 1:7-9. **How can you meditate on God’s Word day and night in the 21st century?**

Can we understand scripture without a personal and deep relationship with God?

What does this passage promise over those who keep close to God’s word?