



GROWING UP

on the Journey with Jesus

The journey to a life of wisdom

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) *“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.”*

IF YOU WANT TO GROW UP IN YOUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS:

Read the Bible...

Psalm 119:48 (NLT) “I honor and love your commands. I meditate on your decrees.”

with a gospel point of view...

Ephesians 1:13 (NLT) “And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.”

and the wisdom you receive...(Lectio Divina)

James 1:5 (NLT) “If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

will align you with what God is doing now...

2 Corinthians 5:16a (NRSV) “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view...”

so you will receive His approval.

Matthew 25:21 (NLT) “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’”

I will read the Bible with a gospel point of view and the wisdom I receive will align me with what God is doing now so I will receive His approval.

THE JOURNEY TO A LIFE OF WISDOM

1. Share an experience when reading God's word has affected you in a significant way.
2. When you read 2 Tim 2:15, we see that Paul told Timothy to "work hard" to be approved by God. What does it mean to "work hard" when we know we are saved by grace through faith and not by works (Eph 2:8-9)?
3. Do you think having a disciplined plan for reading God's word would be a part of "working hard" in your spiritual development? Why or why not?
4. When Paul uses the phrase "word of truth" in 2 Timothy 2:15, he is referring to the gospel message (cf. Eph 1:13, Col 1:5) not just to the Bible. How does the Gospel message change the way we understand the bible and apply it to life?
5. How does the command to love God and others fit into this understanding of living out a "word of truth" kind of life?
6. How did a gospel point of view (i.e., a "word of truth" viewpoint) make Jesus different from other teachers and leaders of his time? How can we apply this to our effort to "work hard" in these things?
7. How does the idea of Lectio Divina help us receive God's wisdom from His word?
8. When gain a new insight from reading and reflecting on the message of the gospel in God's word what are some ways to ensure you do not forget it? Share as a group some ideas about retaining the wisdom God grants to us.
9. From Genesis to Revelation God is telling us a story of His love -- first in creation and then in the unfolding story of his bringing a lost world back to himself. It is this love story that rings out over the big story of the bible and has echoes in all the smaller stories of Scripture.
 - a. How does understanding God's "big story" help us read the bible correctly and bring wisdom to our lives?
10. In the outline this week there was a statement of commitment: "I will read the Bible with a gospel point of view and the wisdom I receive will align me with what God is doing now so that I will receive his approval." How will you follow through on this in the coming weeks? How can your group help you?