
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Casting Group Vision

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our meeting. The newsletter may not capture everything, and the topics may not be in the exact order discussed. The newsletter is intended to capture key points from our evening together, with like topics being grouped together for convenience. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

Welcome. We officially welcomed a new sister into our small group family. She attended our meeting on October 1, 2019, but that meeting was a “Getting to Know You” meeting; therefore, we did not take nor publish notes.

Group Anniversary and Casting Vision

- WoW2 small group is now officially 14 years old! According to “The Tabernacle of Moses,” by Kevin J. Conner, 14 is the “Number of Passover.”¹ To commemorate this occasion, we examined each of the verses Conner associated with this number to see how they would inspire us:
 - **Exodus 12:6.** Since the lamb was brought into the home four days before Passover, the one word that inspired us from this verse is “preparation.”
Takeaway. This season will require preparation on our part.
 - **Numbers 9:5.** This verse takes place in the Wilderness of Sinai during the second Passover, which occurred two years after they left Egypt. This led us to the following conclusions
 - There IS a wilderness season that follows Passover.
 - “Sinai” actually means “thorny,” which reminded us of the parable of the sower and the seed. Moreover, Mt Sinai is where Moses received instruction.
 - **Takeaway.** Since WoW² is in the wilderness, we are expecting to receive guidance from the Lord for any “thorny” ways in our midst.
 - **Genesis 31:41.** This verse describes Jacob discussing the time he spent in his father-in-laws household. “Change” is the word that stood out to us, which led us to the following:

¹ Kevin J. Conner, *The Tabernacle of Moses*, (Portland: City Bible Publishing, 1976).

- Change can and will occur in the wilderness, but it's not necessarily going to be comfortable.
- While Jacob was serving his father-in-law, he was subject to the standards set by his father-in-law. Likewise, when we are in relationship with Jesus, we are subject to His standards, meaning we are to take up our cross and follow Him.
- Change is constant; you can always depend on it happening, but we have to be careful of our mindset, because change can grow us or it can stunt us.
- **Takeaway.** Change is going to happen, so even when things don't go how we want them to, our reactions are still held to God's standards.
- **Acts 27:27-33.** We actually looked at verses 27-35. There were several keys that stood out to us:
 - V28. "fifteen." Since we will turn 15 on our next anniversary, this number turned our attention to looking ahead and how we will transition from 14 to 15.
 - V29. "rocks." This reminded us of the rocky soil in the parable. Thus, at this point, we have both the thorny and the rocky soil represented.
 - V29. "four anchors." In addition to reminding us of the four soils in the parable of the sower and the seed,
 - The four anchors also reminded us of the theme of our most recent retreat. During this retreat, anchor was our theme, and we discussed the four seasons we encounter in the wilderness. This led us to ask two questions:
 - "Where are we anchoring ourselves?"
 - "What do our four anchors look like?"
 - We likened them throwing out all four anchors to stop the ship to our throwing out all of our anchors to fully surrender ourselves to the Lord!
 - V29. "and prayed for day to come" (NKJV). This spoke to us of praying for guidance.
 - V31. "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved" (NKJV). This reminded us of the safety that comes from staying in community.

We also saw how the ship can represent God, and unless we stay “in the ship with Him,” we cannot be saved!

- V33. “...’For the last fourteen days ...you have been in constant suspense and gone without food ...” (NIV). This reminded us that some things only come out by fasting and prayer; however, we felt like there is something else that needs to be revealed from this verse.
 - V33. “...Paul implored *them* all to take food ...” (NKJV). The key word we took from this verse was “nourishment.”
 - V35. “And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God...” (NKJV). This reminded us of always giving thanks and of communion, which is something we will look at adding into our meetings on a more regular basis.
 - **Takeaway.** If we don’t let fear rule us, but instead, we surrender to the Lord and stay connected in community, we will gain nourishment for our growth as a group and as an individual.
- **Identify. Define. Apply. (IDA).** After examining the Scriptures related to the number 14, we turned our attention to the “My Vision Worksheet” (attached) to begin casting group vision for this year. For clarity, I’ve begun filling in the worksheet; however, as we continue to define and refine our vision, this worksheet will change.
 - **Identify.** We identified our vision as “Thriving in the Wilderness.” We are standing on Psalm 95:6-8. The beauty of this vision and Scripture is they both came from the recent retreat and neither originated with us. However, as it turned out, the retreat ended up becoming a launching point for WoW² and the wilderness season we are now entering. Therefore, instead of feeling like I (or we) have to recreate the wheel, we are going to humbly and gratefully accept what the Father has already provided.
 - **Define.** Since this is a time of new beginnings for us, we are going back to our original vision for small group, while also bringing forward lessons from the past. With that in mind, we decided our completed group vision should look like, “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:39). In other words, if we are to thrive in the wilderness, group has to be a safe place for us to grow in our relationship with the Lord. Towards that goal, the current plan for next week is to expand on our etiquette reminder to establish specific standards that will define how we will operate as a group to create our safe space.

- **Apply.** We have chosen the Scriptures we looked at associated with the number 14 to become the steps we will take to apply our vision. We will also include Jeremiah 4:3, “For thus says the Lord to the [women of WoW²], break up the fallow ground, And do not sow among the thorns” [NOTE: we inserted our group name to make this verse personal and applicable].
- **Additional Notes.**
 - **Numbers 20:1-13.** Long story short, these verses talk about how the Israelites rebelled against God in the wilderness. In looking at these verses, we reached the following conclusion: The wilderness is about a time of preparation. It’s when we clear and till the land, i.e. break up the fallow ground in our heart so it can be good soil for the seeds of His word!
 - **Overall takeaway.** Since Passover is a time of new beginnings, we are, as a group, beginning “Anew.” “Anew” was spoken prophetically over me at a previous retreat, and seems perfect for our season as a small group.
 - **Individual takeaways.**
 - We noted how the Israelites considered the wilderness an “evil place,” when it was God that sent them there!
 - We looked at what it must have been like for them. We know the ending, but they didn’t. How many times do we react in rebellion, because we don’t know the outcome?
 - They spent a lot of time looking at the “man” Moses instead of looking at God. How often do we spend a lot of time looking at whom God has chosen to lead us rather than look at Him?
 - He has to keep showing us miraculous signs for us to hold on to Him the same way the Israelites needed miracles.

Homework Assignments: None this week.

Next Meeting: We will continue creating the group vision.

Closing: We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site www.wow2women.com.



October 15, 2019

CASTING GROUP VISION ATTACHMENT: MY VISION WORKSHEET

NAME: WoW2 Small Group

DATE: 10/15/2019

IDENTIFY your vision and the Scripture(s) you are standing on

“Thriving in the Wilderness”

Psalm 95:6-8 (NLT)

Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker; for he is our God, We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today! The Lord says, “Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did...in the wilderness.

DEFINE what your completed vision should look like

Peace, be still! (Mark 4:39) – group will be a safe place to grow, so we can thrive in the wilderness.

APPLY: What steps will you need to apply to fulfill your vision?