

Meeting Notes: "I See Me" – Vision (January 15, 2014)

These notes capture our January 15, 2014 meeting. We opened in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes from the evening may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed.

GOD'S GOAL for the Group: Learn how to apply the Word to our lives.

CURRENT VISION: "The Year of Maturity: Learning how to hear with ears of faith that we may be hearers of the word and not doers only." Scripture Reference: **Mark 4:24.**

Closing the Loop on Last Meeting: I passed out updated documents to those who missed last week and filled in a couple more volunteer opportunities.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (NKJV).

Exercise – Unity:

- Purpose. The exercise is based on Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" This agreement begins with God's goal for the group—for us to learn how to apply His Word to our lives. It continues with our current vision to have hears of faith, so we can be doers of the Word and not hearers only. It is fulfilled with each person, as we apply God's Word to fulfill our individual vision. Takeaway. Agreement between group members begins with God, flows to us in the form of a group vision, and culminates with each of us walking in personal vision.
- Application. First application: We all stood in a group holding hands. However, one sister was standing very close to the coffee table; therefore, I asked everyone to step up so she wouldn't bump into the table. Interestingly enough, everyone but the person standing near the table moved! Unbeknownst to us, this was the first part of the exercise. It illustrated how, collectively, most of us moved forward, but even the one person who stood still responded to the forward movement of her sisters. Takeaway. Even though God has given us a goal for the group, not everyone will initially respond to that goal, but if we stay connected, each person's forward movement affects someone else. Second application: I asked everyone to move in a direction of their choosing. Everyone, save one, stepped forward. However, because no one let go, even the person who stepped backwards remained connected to her sisters.

Takeaway. Not everyone will be moving forward at the same time, but even those who are "moving backwards," can benefit from the forward movement of others as long as they stay connected to the group. *Third application*: This time, I told one person to step backwards, and then I felt prompted to whisper directions to everyone else, which I did, giving each person specific guidance—some stepped forward and some stepped backwards. Yet, we still all remained connected. **Takeaway**. Because we each have an individual vision, we will not all be moving in the same direction at the same time; however, again, if we stay connected, we can benefit from the forward movement of others in the group.

- Overall Takeaway. If we each stay connected to our accountability partner, we form a unified circle of women seeking to grow in our ability to apply God's Word to our lives. That connectivity will help each of us benefit from someone else's forward movement. As a result, we are seeking to ensure everyone has a person they are accountable to that is not the same person they are accountable for. That way, those two are not just holding onto each other, but they are also holding onto someone else who, in turn, is holding onto someone else, ultimately, forming an unbroken chain! Takeaway. This exercise demonstrated the principle in Ecclesiastes 4:12 "Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."
- Comments. One, all of us have eyes to see when someone is pulling away, but our "lives" get in the way, and we don't reach out. However, if we're to stay connected to each other, each person in the group has a responsibility to check on our sisters in Christ. Two, someone asked if there was something someone can do to not be welcomed back in group, and the answer was no. Just as Jesus forgives us, I cannot think of anything someone could do that would not warrant forgiveness and being welcomed back into group. Three, we reiterated attendance is not about numbers, but about connectivity and helping each other continue moving forward in other words, not letting go of anyone's hand! Four, sometimes, we can hear from one person what we can't hear from another. Takeaway. Connectivity to more than one person is very important.

Discussion Topic: "I See Me" - Vision

- Questions. We spent our discussion clarifying our vision to "give it feet."
 - What should our vision look like? Rather than our vision just being a noun, (i.e. faith, trust, etc.), we noted our vision needs to have a clearly descriptive verb attached that tells us what we want to achieve. For example, rather than "work on faith," do we want to develop our faith, increase our faith, learn more about faith, etc.? Takeaway. Make sure our vision is specific.
 - How do we apply our vision? Applying our vision means we can take the Word and know what we want it to do in our heart—not in our circumstances. For example, when examining our thoughts, we are not

evaluating the validity of the thought; we are seeking to determine what the thought does to the condition of our heart. **Takeaway**. The newsletter, *Bringing Our Thoughts to Christ,* (December 19, 2013)¹ is a very good resource for understanding what to do with our thoughts and how they affect our heart.

· Other discussion related to vision.

- Things that affect our ability to walk in our vision. In discussing my journey to pull up the root of pride, we discussed the difference in listening to understand and listening while preparing our counter argument. Preparing what we are going to say while someone is talking generates from a prideful spirit. That discussion led to the question, "What is the difference in pride and ego?" Two people are looking that up for us this week. In the meantime, one of us explained ego is how you feel about yourself, whereas, pride feeds your ego and affects the outcome of your behavior. Ultimately, we ended up talking about learning how to listen, not through our wounds, but through a breastplate of righteousness.
 Takeaway. Our level of hurt affects our ability to hear others.
- Developing a prayer for walking out our vision. God is not trying to constantly keep planting new seeds. He's trying to harvest on what He's already planted. Therefore, rather than keep looking for new Scriptures for our prayer, consider going back through our journal, the Meeting Notes, and other resources to see what God has already spoken.
 Takeaway. Harvest some of our seeds, before trying to plant new ones!

Homework Assignments:

- Completing our Vision. Finish clarifying our vision. Be able to answer the following questions: 1) What is your vision, 2) What have you learned thus far from the Armor study to help you walk in your vision, 3) What hinders you in achieving your vision, 4) What will your completed vision look like, and 5) What is your plan (your blueprint) to walk out your vision?
- **Sword of the Spirit**. In preparation for next week, do a quick Internet search on the Sword of the Spirit and see what you find.

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 www.wow2wowen.com or complete a Contact Form on our site www.wow2wowen.com.

¹ This newsletter can be obtained from the Reflections page of the website: http://wow2women.com/reflections.html.