



Meeting Notes: The Upper Room Experience – Understanding Unity and Prayer (June 11, 2014)

These notes capture our June 11, 2014 meeting. We opened our meeting 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: For us to 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 doers of the word and not hearers only.” Scripture Reference: **Mark 4:24**.

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God (NKJV).

Discussion Topic: The Upper Room Experience – Understanding Unity and Prayer

- **Reading:** We began the evening by reading Acts 1:1 – 2:4 (We read all of Chapter 1 and stopped at Acts 2:4).
- **Discussing The Upper Room:** Using the above Scriptures, we discussed and agreed upon the answers to the following questions:
 - **Who sent them to the Upper Room?** Jesus (Acts 1:4)
 - **Why?** To receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5)
 - **What were they told to expect? Answer:** Power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. (Acts 1:8)
 - **What was the result of them being there?** Filled with the Spirit, with the by-product of speaking in tongues. (Acts 2:4)
- **Transitional Verse:** “When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1 NKJV) (underline added). We summarized “one accord” with “unity.” And, we agreed gathering in our small group could be likened to their “one place.” We then returned to our four discussion questions to discuss the similarities of our small group with the Upper Room experience.
- **Discussing our Small Group:** With the exception of our first question, our

answers came from the group website (www.wow2women.com).¹ We used AppleTV and my iPad to display the website on the TV, so we could view the website together. Since these answers are not as straightforward, more detail is provided for how we reached the conclusions we did.

- **Who sent us to our small group?** We found our answer in 1 Corinthians 12:18, which tells us God sets members in the body as He pleases. Thus, we agreed we are here according to His plan. **Answer:** God.
- **Why?** We decided this question could best be answered by looking at the God's vision for this group. After all, just as Jesus gave the apostles a specific vision for why they were to stay in Jerusalem, He gave us a specific vision when He created this group: "A bible-based, practical application journey through the Word of God." In other words, we are to learn how to apply God's Word to our daily lives. We added the word "daily" to remind us of the four purposes the Word fulfills in our lives: doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).² **Answer:** Apply God's Word to our daily lives.
- **What were we told to expect when we come to group?** We likened our purpose statement to what we believe God told us to expect: "to create an atmosphere that fosters transparency, discipleship, and the outpouring of God's love." **Answer:** Transparency, discipleship, and God's love.
- **What should result from our being here?** This one was a little more complicated, but since results should result in some kind of fruit, we chose our mission to answer this question: "to bring women of God together in an atmosphere that affects change in us, so we may impact others." **Answer:** Change in us so we can impact other.
- **Comparing the Upper Room and our Small Group:** In learning how to apply Scripture to our lives, we see how the Upper Room experience is the model and our small group is the reality—the application—of that model in our every day lives!
- **Hindrances to us applying God's Word to our lives:**
 - **Lack understanding.** Some are still trying to understand specific concepts, so they're not able to apply those concepts, BUT, there are times they get "aha moments." As we discussed when studying the sword, those "aha moments" come from the Holy Spirit. **Takeaway.** While we don't have to understand God's Word to trust Him we do have to understand what He is telling us to do in order to obey.

¹ The vision, purpose, and mission for the group can be located at the bottom of the website's home page.

² This information can be found in the "Logos to Rhema" exercise (Mar 2014) located on the Documents page of the website: <http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>.

- **Idols.** Idols in our lives can be work, family, and anything else that we put before God.
- **Other Hindrances.** **Fear, pride, and lacking knowledge** were also mentioned.
- **Overcoming our hindrances:** In order for change to occur, we have to want to change. Thus, I asked the question, “Do you want to pull down your hindrances?” In some instances, the answer was yes, in which case we can spend time in prayer and seeking Scripture (among other things) to help us move forward. In some instances, we discovered there are hindrances we cling to, because we really don’t know that we want to change, in which case we have to truly acknowledge what’s holding us back. We looked at a specific hindrance (strongholds) and spent some time on the website looking at the *Reflections and Revelations Newsletter: Bringing Thoughts to Christ* (Dec 19, 2013),³ which covers strongholds. The last two pages have a very good diagram that discussed pulling down strongholds and a list of questions we can go through to address our strongholds. In addition, we talked about learning how to break up the fallow ground of our heart (Jeremiah 4:3). The New English Translation (NET) explains this concept well: “Yes, the Lord has this to say to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: “Like a farmer breaking up hard unplowed ground, you must break your rebellious will and make a new beginning; just as a farmer must clear away thorns lest the seed is wasted, you must get rid of the sin that is ruining your lives.” For those who understand the parable of the sower and the seed, this verse reminded us of the thorny ground! **Takeaway.** For change to occur we have to want to change, and God has provided us His Word and several resources on the website to help us change.
- **Understanding our purpose:** Transparency and the outpouring of God’s love were self-explanatory, but we did not know how to define “discipleship.” The Greek word *mathetes* (G3101) is the primary word in the New Testament translated “disciple.” This word means, “a learner, i.e. pupil.” Consequently, since discipleship is part of God’s purpose for us being here, He has us here to learn!
- **Facilitating Transparency:** In order to keep transparency alive, but constructive, going forward, we will use the “Name That Arrow” exercise to discuss our challenges. This way, the discussion will stay focused on the vision God has for us—applying His Word to our lives that we may change to impact others.

Homework Assignment: If you missed group, read Acts 11 – 2:4 and look over the attached whiteboard to ensure you understand how we came to the conclusions we did.

³ This newsletter can be found on the Reflections page of the website: <http://www.wow2women.com/reflections.html>.

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 wow2women.com.

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ATTACHMENT: WhiteBoard Discussion (June 11, 2014)

<p>Read Acts 1:1-2:4</p> <p>Discussion questions</p> <p>1) Who sent them to the Upper Room?</p>	<p>Acts 2:14</p> <p>Disciples</p> <p>Jesus Acts 1:4</p> <p>(1:4)</p>	<p>One accord – unity</p> <p>one place – small group</p> <p>us</p> <p>God –</p> <p>1 Cor 12:18</p>
<p>2) why?</p>	<p>the Holy Spirit</p> <p>(1:5)</p>	<p>vision – learn how to apply God's word to our daily lives (24/7)</p>
<p>3) What were they told to expect?</p>	<p>power when the Holy Spirit comes on them (1:8)</p>	<p>purpose – transparency, disciplines God's love</p>
<p>4) What was the result of them being there?</p>	<p>filled/tongues</p> <p>(2:4)</p>	<p>fruit-mission change to impact others</p>
<p><u>Model</u></p>		<p><u>reality</u></p> <p>Application</p>