
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Reconnecting After Winter Break

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We were on our Winter Break during December 2020; therefore, there are no Meeting Notes following Night of Prayer on December 1, 2020. Thus, this newsletter captures topics discussed during our January 5, 2021 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.

CURRENT VISION. ***"Grace Like a Flood."*** We will learn how to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so we will be able to obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE. **Hebrews 4:16:** "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (NIV)."

DECLARATION OF FAITH. **We will** cultivate a safe place to grow in a peaceful environment by embracing our diversity, so each of us can learn according to her need, so we can operate in our gifts. **We will** operate according to the established guidelines of our group, all of which will help us to go boldly before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help for the transformation that comes as God sanctifies us through and through. **The outcome** of our sanctification will be a deeper level of trust in God, so we are not leaning on our own understanding, but acknowledging Him in all our ways, so He can direct our paths.

WELCOME: We had opportunity to welcome a new sister into our small group family!

TOPICS DISCUSSED. Since we were returning from our Winter Break, we took time to reconnect to our group and personal visions.

Opening. We opened the evening with "Life Song" by Casting Crowns. We noted the verse, "I want to sign your name to the end of this day, Lord led my heart was true." To be able to sign God's name to the end of our day is quite a bold statement!

Group Vision. We all reconnected to the group vision using the Meeting Notes on our website.

Personal Visions. Those of us who have used the My Vision Worksheet and IDA (Identify, Define, Apply) to complete our visions shared where we are beginning 2021. Mine is attached so those attending small group can encourage me in my vision. I shared how I chose the word encourage, because no one can truly hold anyone else accountable for something. That's the Holy Spirit's job, but those of us who meet each week can encourage each other along this journey, especially since this year, we will once again have Vision Check (March, June, and September). During Vision Check, we can help each other assess our progress, celebrate the progress we have made, and discuss any adjustments we may need to make, since each of us brings gifts into the group to edify and build up others. This year, our goal is to allow those gifts flourish!

Our approach to Ephesians. We discussed how we will start the study each week. We decided that, if possible, please come prepared with questions, things you don't understand, and things that stood out to you. HOWEVER, we recognize everyone has full lives, so do what you can, and we'll all trust God for the rest!

Other nuggets from our evening:

- **Additional resources.** – We were introduced to a video series “The Pursuit of Paul” on Amazon Prime for anyone who would like to watch it. There are 7 videos in the series. There's also a series on “The Pursuit of Peter.” “Sergio & Rhoda” is another resource.¹
- **One Word.** We discussed another way to cast vision is using One Word. Here's a link to more information on One Word.² I've been doing something similar since September 2017, when I participated in a retreat entitled C.O.M.E. (Carefully Observe My Example), with “My” referring to Messiah (Jesus). In that retreat, we were encouraged to develop our own personal C.O.M.E. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, mine was Carefully Obliterate My Expectations, which helped me evaluate my expectations and whether or not they were in line with God's Word and His known will in my life. After three other similar retreats, the Holy Spirit has given me my own personal phrase to match the acronym; these phrases have helped me be more focused in my walk with God. Therefore, this year, my personal vision is based on one word: grace. For, we are

¹ Sergio & Rhoda on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMjyLTgfDR9MnRElpcWk95w>.

² More information on One Word can be found at <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c98b6ba5-72e7-4632-8c20-06eec1c49758#pageNum=1>.

transformed when we go before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need.

- **P.E.A.C.E.** While discussing our personal visions and One Word, one of our sisters shared the acronym the Holy Spirit gave her for “peace.” Prayerfully Examine Areas Causing Emotions. This hit like a ton of bricks, because prayerfully examining areas causing emotions in our lives is how we truly get to emotional wellness!
- **Landmarks.** We discussed remembering landmarks or milestones in our lives helps us not be overwhelmed by our circumstances or become disappointed in ourselves.

Nuggets from our Takeaways.

- Worship music won’t allow you to stay downtrodden. It becomes like a life vest for us!
- Sometimes, whether we feel organized or not, all we have to do is show up, and God will do the rest.
- We like the action part of our My Vision Worksheet.

Closing our discussion. We collected our prayer requests for the evening.

Song(s) for the week: “Life Song” by Casting Crowns,
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEhlwljvOq0>).

Homework Assignment(s): If possible, read the whole chapter before small group, but we will process one section at a time during our meeting.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The plan is to begin discussing Ephesians chapter 1.

Closing: We closed in prayer for the needs 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.

ATTACHMENT: MY VISION

NAME: Sebra Ferrell

DATE: 1/5/2021

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

“Grow in Grace” – Seek the transformation that comes when I go before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

DEFINE what your completed vision should look like

A renewed mind (Romans 12:2) and **a heart that is good soil** for the seeds of God’s Word (Luke 8:15), as evidence by a gradual change in my outward behavior in the specific areas the Holy Spirit has identified: family, home, self-care, and ministry.

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

Family:

- Pray for our family to be like the branches of a tree; for our roots to remain as one even though we are all going in different directions.
- Purposefully pray over each of my immediate family members the specific verses provided by the Holy Spirit.

Home:

- Get our home more organized to promote an atmosphere of peace.
- Bless our home to be a sanctuary for all who enter.

Ministry:

- **Courage** – Be strong and courageous for the Lord is with me wherever I go.
- **Listen** – Purpose to hear what’s truly important.
- **Faith** – Don’t stop believing what God has spoken. Celebrate. Hold on to hope.
- **Prayer** – He is always with me. Make time to pray and have eyes to see what God wants me to pray for!
- **Teach** – In a way for people to learn rather than for me to lecture!

- **More voices** – More voices, more victories. As we come together to operate in our gifts, we will all benefit!
- **Christ-focused** – Make small group about Him and our relationship with Him to change the trend of self-focus to Christ-focus, so Jesus can be about the business of saving lives in our midst!

Self-care:

- Be a woman of joy who abides by dwelling with the Lord to find the true friendship with Him my heart desires.
 - Make a joyful noise unto the Lord by once again singing to the Lord. It doesn't have to be a choir. It just needs to be songs of my spirit!
 - Start each day with a grateful heart.
 - Be kind to my mind!
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