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## MEETING NEWSLETTER

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### Ephesians 1:1-10

Welcome to WoW<sup>2</sup>, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our January 12, 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.

**Opening.** Since everyone was feeling a little off from their day, we opened the evening with “Blessings” by Laura Story. After our time of worship, we began our study.

**TOPICS DISCUSSED.** We discussed the Introduction to Ephesians along with Chapter 1, verses 1-10. We noted how Ephesians is a book of encouragement.

**Ephesians 1:1-10.** We summarized these verses with “These verses teach us ‘positionally where we are in Christ, how we got there (by God’s grace and His will), and in this position we obtain spiritual blessings, sonship, redemption, forgiveness of sin, and knowledge about His mystery.’”

**Other nuggets from our discussion:**

- **Transference of spirits.** Sometimes, when we're feeling off, someone has transferred a negative spirit to us. This happens when we already have something in us that the spirit can attach to, such as worry, anxiety, fear, frustrations, etc. **Takeaway.** Check what's going on in our heart when we're around others and walk away feeling off.
- **Trials.** Trials may be God's mercies in disguise. Sometimes, we freak out over things that are out of our control, so we don't recognize our problem might be God's blessing in disguise. For all we know that trial may be saving us from something. **Takeaway.** It benefits us to have the right perspective about our trials.
- **Every spiritual blessing.** While discussing every spiritual blessing, we looked back at Deuteronomy 28:1-4. In the Old Testament, the blessings were dependent upon their obedience to the laws. In Ephesians 1:3, we're told our blessings are spiritual, they are in heavenly places, and they are in Christ Jesus. **Takeaway.** When we are in heavenly places and in Christ Jesus, we have access to our spiritual blessings!
- **In and under.** We discussed the difference between "in Christ" and "under Christ." When we're walking "in" the Lord, we have the same Spirit He had. When we're "under" Christ, we don't have the same power and we're not using everything He's given us. The example we used was that of water in a glass. The water is "in" the glass; however, the table is "under" the glass. When we're in Christ, He's all around us. In front. Behind. Always within. He's ever present. Where we go, He goes. **Takeaway.** It's important to note our "placement by preposition." In Him, no matter where we look, we see Him! Moreover, our relationship back to the Father is through Jesus!
- **Questions to ask while studying Scripture.** What? Where? When? Why? These help us understand the message being communicated.
- **Lavished/poured.** One version of Ephesians 1:8 says God lavished His grace upon us (NIV) and another says he poured out His grace (CSB). The image of Him pouring out His grace upon us reminded us of how Kings were once anointed. The oil was poured out on them. They actually poured all of it out, emptying the vessel – nothing was held back! We were also reminded of when Judas complained about the woman with the Alabaster box using all that oil to anoint Jesus. Jesus responded that Judas didn't even know what she was doing. The breaking of the alabaster box to anoint Jesus is a

representation of this Scripture telling us He lavished His grace upon us, revealing how valuable we are to Him! Moreover, He has to fill us up every day with a fresh anointing of His grace! **Takeaway.** God didn't hold anything back when He lavished His grace on us, thus showing us how generous He is with us.

- **Timing.** When it was the right time, God revealed His mystery. In order to gain clarity about this mystery, we looked at other Scripture on the mystery that brought Jews and Gentiles together into unity in Christ: Colossians 1:26-27 and Colossians 2:2. This mystery actually reminded us of how Abraham was a Gentile before God called him out of his land. As a matter of fact, he was an idol-making Gentile! God didn't forsake the Gentiles Abraham came out of. Instead, He made a way for them to be grafted in! **Takeaway.** The mystery is God's plan to bring the Gentiles into His kingdom, but it had to be revealed at just the right time.

#### **Nuggets from our Takeaways.**

- He chose us! We think we chose Him, but He chose us! He chose us from His grace and His will. It's all about Him, and not about us! Every event in our lives is in relationship to His story! It's about bringing glory to His name. Like a parent with their child. That's how God is with us. Because of the life we live, He can look at us and say, "That's my girl!"
- When we approach Scripture with a self-help theology, we don't get the whole picture about His story. Self-help theology will get us from one point to another, but won't help us live our life, and it surely won't prepare us for our trials! One goal, as we go through Ephesians, is for each of us to gain what we need to better go through our trials.
- When we always need to be rescued, we've been feeding off fast food, while jumping into the deep end, not knowing how to swim!
- Instead of it being about how can I build more me, more of my kingdom, we can change our focus to understand we don't have a kingdom. If we're in church, in the body of Christ, it's because He chose us to be there. However, what we choose to do with being chosen is up to us!
- Psalm 51:6 reminded us that He gives us wisdom. His chosen people have it within us to recognize His truth!

- God made sure there were Gentiles in Messiah's genealogy!

**Closing our discussion.** We collected our prayer requests for the evening, and then played "Alabaster Box" before closing in prayer.

**Song(s) for the week:** "Blessings" by Laura Story ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCjApw\\_Ticw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCjApw_Ticw)) and "Albaster Box" by CeCe Winans (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq8VP9osGrg>).

**Homework Assignment(s):** If possible, read through Ephesians 1:11-14.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2021. The plan is to discuss Ephesians chapter 1:11-13.

**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](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site.*