
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Lesson 1 - Introducing the Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We did not meet on January 14th; therefore, this newsletter captures topics discussed during our January 21st 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: Thriving in the Wilderness. We will cultivate a safe place to grow in a peaceful environment by preparing the soil of our heart to receive and respond to God's guidance, anchoring ourselves in the Holy Spirit. **We will operate** according to the established guidelines of our group, all of which will bring to light the changes we need to make in our lives, so we can gain the nourishment necessary to grow as individuals and as a group.

Thriving, while in the Wilderness, **will be the outcome of our growth.**

TOPICS DISCUSSED. During this meeting, we discussed the following:

Lesson 1 - Introducing the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. We began the evening discussing any challenges from the week. One of the things we noticed is He is teaching some of us how to have more structure and others how to be more flexible. Here are the specific challenges related to the study:

- **Not able to complete the comprehensive look into the four soils.** Lack of time and not fully understanding the directions were the two main causes. However, since I had included my breakdown, everyone was able to get an idea of what the parable entails.
- **Understanding the name of the soils.** Since different translations use different names, the word "wayside" in my example confused some. Therefore, we looked at several names for the first soil: "**wayside** (New Kings James Version)," "**footpath**" (New Living Translation)," "**path**" (New International Version), and "**road**" (Amplified)."

Nuggets from the Evening. Here are the nuggets I jotted down while discussing the lesson:

- **An interpretive look at the soils.** One sister shared the revelation she received while looking at each of the soils.
 - **Wayside/Road.** Since the seed was by the road, she saw it as being in between the fields, leaving it unprotected for the birds to easily devour. **Takeaway.** Seed in the wayside is unprotected.
 - **Rocky.** Since this soil is without root, it has nothing to ensure it will stick. She gave the analogy of how weeds can rise up to choke and destroy the good things around them. She also shared the analogy of how roots that are rising underneath a driveway can actually break up the concrete. **Takeaway.** Weeds destroy, but roots break up. We didn't fully discuss this, but it is a nugget well worth remembering!
 - **Thorny.** I jotted down "fear not faith" for this soil. She gave the analogy of how all the hinderances in this soil are like the crap in your life. The visual image is when crap hits the fan, it makes a huge mess, so you don't really know where to start with cleaning it up. In the end, you feel overwhelmed and like a failure. Moreover, we discussed the need for being willing AND obedient, and to do so we have to give our control over to God. If we're not living by what we hear, we suffer the consequences of not following Him. **Takeaway.** Being willing and obedient requires our letting go of control, so we can follow God.
- **Personal ministry.** We had a time of intense personal ministry, which highlighted the need for forgiveness, not only of others, but also of self. We discussed how true forgiveness is when you can open your heart to be hurt in the same way, without fear or having your guard up. I shared how I've actually experienced that, but it took a few years for me to get there! **Takeaway.** Healing of our hurts cannot take place without true forgiveness.
- **Other nuggets.**
 - We can have God's Word in our head, but it not be in our heart.
 - We noted the diversity in how we process.
 - We noted the importance of consistency.

- Acknowledging where we are in the soils is like a compass; there's deliverance in knowing where you are.
- The wrong seed can be sown! The enemy can and will try to corrupt the soil of our heart and/or give us expired or bad seed!

Administrative Details. One of our sisters is taking an extended leave to complete a class through her church. She will stay current with the study and return once that class is complete, so we took the opportunity to pray over her during our closing.

Homework Assignment(s):

- Complete Lesson 2.
- For those who don't yet have one, prayerfully consider a personal vision for the year.
- Listen to and meditate on "Stand in Your Love," by Josh Baldwin.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on January 28th.

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.