
MEETING NEWSLETTER

The Women of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our January 26, 2021 Social. 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.

TOPICS DISCUSSED. For our first 2021 Social, we decided to have a fun, but also productive evening, by playing the game, “Who Am I?” The purpose of this game was to help us visualize our response to Scripture based on how the parable of the sower and the seed describes the condition of our heart. In preparing for our social, the Holy Spirit gave me specific names for each soil. He then led me to a specific picture for each name, which I used to create a PowerPoint presentation. Thus, each soil became a woman we could see while we discussed her attributes.

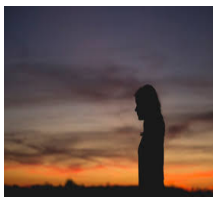
During the game, by looking at how Scripture described each soil and reflecting on our own lives, we imagined how each of these women might respond to the Word. We also asked what each woman might need if she were a part of our small group. Using one word or phrase, we identified what might help each woman overcome her hindrances.

However, before we get to our descriptions, it's important to note, we fully recognized we have been each of these women, and in some areas of our lives, we still are! Moreover, even though each of these soils stands alone, much like each of these women stand alone, we can respond to the Word like any or all of these women at any given moment, depending on what life challenge(s) we're facing. Last, but not least, since we could relate to each of these women in the good, the bad, and the ugly, we were actually able to laugh at ourselves in the process! However, to allow each person reading this to personalize each of these soils in a way meaningful to her, we kept our descriptions as general as possible, for we truly did have way too much fun laughing at ourselves!

Opening. We opened the evening with "Who Am I," by Casting Crowns.

God Sings. Before we met the women of the parable of the sower and the seed, we had a great discussion on how God actually sings over us. We looked at Hebrews 2:11-12 and Zephaniah 3:17 to confirm this.

The Women of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed.



Wayside Wendy.¹ Wayside Wendy's nickname is "Path Patty," because some versions translate this soil as where the seed fell along the path; however, we referred to her as Wayside Wendy. The woman represented by this soil lacks understanding, so when she hears the Word, the devil

immediately comes and snatches it right out of her heart. Even if Wendy takes notes, her lack of understanding will keep her from being able to put into practice the things she writes down. In other words, Wendy gains a lot of knowledge, but she doesn't know how to apply what she hears to her daily life. Thus, **understanding** is one word to describe what Wendy needs in order to mature in her walk with Christ.



Rocky Raquel.² Unlike Wayside Wendy, there are times Rocky Raquel can understand Scripture. She may not understand everything, but she gets excited about what does make sense. However, because the soil of her heart contains "stones," the Word can't take root. Those "stones" are things that Raquel holds near and dear to her heart, such as unforgiveness,

¹ Image retrieved from: <https://images.app.goo.gl/cbKSaiUydrN9QoGD9>

² Image retrieved from <https://images.app.goo.gl/nMhUrTCuEqrVQvfWA>.

bitterness pride, and the like. Raquel may not know she's holding onto these things; however, they're things she's not ready or maybe not willing to surrender to the Lordship of Christ, thus causing her heart to get hard towards any Scriptures that challenge her. Therefore, Raquel can receive the Word with joy, and she even obeys what she likes. But, without a root system to stabilize her, when what she heard results in tribulation, persecution, or temptation, she rejects the Scripture. Her rejection causes her to immediately stumble, meaning she no longer does what she understands. What Raquel might not know is what she's facing is a test of her faith, for every time we hear the Word, the enemy comes to steal it. If he's unable to steal it, he will bring a challenge in the hopes she will doubt it. Therefore, Raquel has to be willing to surrender her entire life to Christ—her thoughts, plans, emotions, and her “stones”—all of them have to come under the Lordship of Jesus. Thus, **obedience and submission** are two words that describe what Raquel needs in order to mature in her walk with Christ.



Thorny Theresa.³ Thorny Theresa, on the other hand, understands a good bit of Scripture, and she can even obey things that might cause Rocky Raquel to stumble. Overall, Theresa is a more mature believer. Since she has a relatively good understanding of Scripture, she can obey God, for a season, in her own strength. As a result, she's actually able to withstand a few of life's storms; she even begins to produce fruit on the seeds of God's Word planted in her heart, but that fruit fails to mature. Others can usually tell that Theresa believes in Jesus. She may even be successful in her marriage, career, etc. To others, she seems to have it all together, but she may be feeling overwhelmed inside. Theresa actually knows how to wear a beautiful mask, but time can wear her down. Because she hasn't dealt with all the deep issues in her heart—the childhood trauma, disappointments, hurts, rejections, etc.--she finds herself going around mountains she thought she'd conquered again and again, and over time, she gets “faith weary.” That's when the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and/or the pleasures of life that are at root of the heart issues weighing on her heart choke out the Word. Therefore, **trust** in the Lord is one phrase that describes what Theresa needs in order to fully mature in her faith.

³ Image retrieved from <https://unsplash.com/photos/JqNtm8uw7RQ>.



Good Ground Gabrielle.⁴ We nicknamed Good Ground Gabrielle, “GiGi.” Gigi has an honest and good heart! Therefore, she’s able to accept even the hard truths of God’s Word. Because she is patient, GiGi keeps the Word in her heart! She not only understands the Word, but she is also able to produce mature fruit on it! As a matter of fact, the impact of the Word in

her life is exponential! Her harvest can be 100, 60, or 30 times more than what went in.

Practically speaking, this means, over time, it’s hard for people to believe GiGi when she shares her testimony, because she no longer looks like the person she used to be! Yes. She faces life’s challenges like everyone else, but because she is rooted and grounded in Christ, she faces those difficulties with grace, learning the lesson of each trial. However, GiGi is also aware that the fruit she produces is not just for her. Ultimately, what God does in her life should flow through her to save souls, transform lives, and benefit God’s Kingdom!

Root systems. While bringing Thorny Theresa to life, we had a really good discussion on root systems. The gardener in our midst educated me on weeds! She shared, when you pull up a broadleaf⁵ weed, they don’t come up easy. Even when you pull them out, the root system breaks, and the weed just comes back! However, with a thistle⁶, they come out easy, and they don’t come back, BUT it comes at a cost. Since thistles have thorns on them, you can stick yourself on the thorn! Interestingly enough, the wide broadleaf weed doesn’t have thorns. So, we may not get pricked, but end up doing all this pulling thinking we got rid of the weed only to see it come back again. This can be compared to when we think we’ve pulled up the root of something in our lives only to experience it again and again. We could personally attest to the many times this has happened to us. In my own personal life, the thing that hurt me more deeply than anything I had previously experienced also led to the fastest transformation in Christ I have ever experienced. Like the thistle, the thorn of that moment was very painful, but once that root system was pulled out, there was a drastic change in my life!

⁴ Image retrieved from <https://images.app.goo.gl/CQRpe7YHNRjUYjNW8>.

⁵ “The dandelion has a very long taproot which extends deep into the ground. While you can easily pull or dig up a dandelion, if any of this taproot remains it can regenerate a new plant.” “The Best Way to Get Rid of Dandelions – Without Roundup.” *Oak Hill Gardens*, 18 February 2019, <https://www.oakhillgardens.com/blog/best-way-to-get-rid-of-dandelions-permanently>.

⁶ “If you spot them early, removing them by hand is easy. Either pull them out by hand or use a hand fork another type of weeding tool.” Stephens, Tim. “How to Remove Creeping Thistles and Dwarf Thistles From Your Lawn.” *Seeker Garden*, 28 December 2020, <https://www.gardenseeker.com/lawn-care/weeds/thistles/>.

Nuggets from our Takeaways.

- Every time we have to go around the mountain doesn't mean we missed something. It may just be the type of weed we're pulling up: broadleaf or thistle.
- We can't see what soil we're in without a level of conviction. It's in that place of conviction that we can hear. While looking at the different pictures, we noted every last scene was peace and quiet. So, no matter the stage or the level of conviction, are we seeking and listening rather than being lulled to sleep by the peace and quiet?
- The pictures I was led to for each woman really brought the soils to life.

Closing our discussion. We collected our prayer requests for the evening and then listened to "Awesome God," by Michael W Smith and "My God is STILL Awesome in 2021! He Can Move Mountains! The REMIX". We then closed in prayer.

Song(s) for the week: "Who Am I," by Casting Crowns, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rT8Re1ElQc>, "Awesome God" by Michael W Smith, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38V8jnN1Kpw> and "My God is STILL Awesome in 2021! He Can Move Mountains! The REMIX": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDC7NeVfc30>.

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, February 2, 2021. The plan is to pick up with Ephesians 1:15.

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.