
Meeting Newsletter, February 7, 2023

Welcome to WoW2, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our February 7, 2023, meeting. It seeks to capture some, but not all, key points from our evening together, with like topics being conveniently grouped together. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

Declaration of Faith: We will be mindful of what we are believing, what we are saying, what we doing, and what tools we are using as we continue moving forward.

OPENING

We opened in song and prayer, then began our discussion on Ecclesiastes 9.

DISCUSSION

Closing the Loop.

Group Vision. The final vision has been distributed to those currently attending small group and posted to the website.

Recognizing our "Ites." We opened with "Speak to the Mountains," because not only can we make mountains out of molehills, but there are also times we need to speak to the mountain (Mark 11:23). (See update on **attachment 1**).

Ecclesiastes 9. My takeaway from this chapter is in the attached H.E.A.R.T Worksheet. Other nuggets from our discussion:

In v2-3, Solomon's take on our common destiny was a bit disturbing, because it implies what we do doesn't matter towards our final destiny. However, we know, without Jesus, we all have a **common destiny**, so everything "**under the sun**" is futile if it's not done "**under the Son**." Thus, without the right perspective, sometimes, it can be hard to do right when someone else is doing wrong, which raised the question, "If you could do wrong, would you take the risk?" This eye-opening statement led us to James 5:20: "Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from



Upcoming Events

February 14

Scheduled Off Day

March 7

Night of Prayer

April 3

Spring Break

Current Vision

Moving Forward: Walking by faith in the things we believe, think, speak, and do to cultivate wisdom and put on the whole armor of God!

Scripture(s)

2 Corinthians 5:7; Proverbs 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 6:19-20

Additional Verses: Mark 9:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:29; Psalm 19:14

Inspirational Song(s)

"Moving Forward" by Israel Houghton

Current Study:

Finish Ecclesiastes & then Ephesians using our new approach

death and cover over a multitude of sins.” Because of this covering, no person’s work or performance should define how they operate in grace and love!



In v6, we noted how we can place more importance on things like status, especially financial status, while still ignoring poor people.

In v8, Solomon says to “always anoint your head with oil,” but as Christians, we tend to think of only the Lord anointing our heads with oil.

In v9, it was the second time that week one of us had heard, “Enjoy life.” It was a reminder for her that life is not just about working. Thus, one of her takeaways was to enjoy life more and be thankful and being thankful will help her enjoy life!

In v10, “Whatever your hands find to do” is part of one of our personal visions. Moreover, even in a worldly way, we know if we’re going to do something to do it right!

In v17-18, the quiet words of the wise stood out, because we need wisdom to know how to use our “weapons of war.” We also need to learn about the different armor pieces and pray for guidance on how to use them, because one bad seed (or act) can cause a lot of damage, much like when trust is broken. Trust is small, but it can easily be broken yet can be hard to repair. However, wisdom can be a fruit that prevents this destruction and can also help us avoid war!

While discussing trust, we noted how the enemy tries to throw us off track by making things look like we don’t want them to. However, if we know this about our enemy, why would we think things are going to be simple and look like we want them to?

While discussing wisdom, we noted waiting before we speak can also help us avoid causing destruction! After all, we don’t know other’s perspective or how they perceive a situation, nor do they know ours. However, if we are walking in love, “love thinks no evil,” (1 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV).

While discussing love, we noted love covers a multitude of things. So, even if a sinner destroys something, where there’s love there’s hope, which reminded us of kintsugi, the Japanese “art of making repairs visible.”¹ We noted **love is the precious metal that binds all**

Homework

Read Ecclesiastes 10 and pick your one takeaway about what’s happening “under the sun” which is the theme of this book. If you’d like, you can use the H.E.A.R.T worksheet, but it’s not required.

Prayerfully ponder the “Ites” and ask the Holy Spirit to identify yours as it relates to how you answered the vision questions and your one word/Scripture.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
@ 7:00pm.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our website.

¹ Kleon, Austin. (2019, December 22). Kintsugi and the art of making repair visible. <https://austinkleon.com/2019/12/22/kintsugi-and-the-art-of-making-repair-visible/>.

the broken pieces together. Sadly, Ecclesiastes was a time when they didn't know the love of Christ or have Him in their heart, which could result in a hardness of heart that makes life seem futile. However, **the reality of our relationship with God** can make all the difference in the world when the pressure is on, because in Him is where we find grace and peace.

Overall, despite Ecclesiastes being depressing, there is **practical application** we took from it:

- Watch our words
- Enjoy life
- Rest in God, knowing resting is not about being lazy
- Keep our oil lamps filled, which encompasses all the above

New topic(s):

Prayer Request Log. I introduced a log to help us better keep up with our prayer requests & praise reports in a more concise way so we can praise God when He answers our prayers!

Some highlights from our takeaways

Even though Ecclesiastes is heavy, knowing who we are helps us get through the depressing parts; also, this is at least one place where we see that love will cover a multitude of sins.

The more we learn, the thicker our belt of truth gets. Likewise, the more Word we learn, the more Scriptures we know for different situations, and that creates more peace in our lives.

God's Word puts wisdom in us.

RESOURCES

Links to our inspirational Song(s) supporting our vision:

"Israel Houghton - Moving Forward"

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVEFGllyx1o&list=RDCVEFGllyx1o&start_radio=1)

Links to the Song(s) from this meeting:

"Chris McClarney – Speak To The Mountains (Official Lyric Video)"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SparqiXhzwC&list=PLPrL7uz5HpPHQU2D-Gsw9MXymYSkXZkc6&index=38>)

"Katy Nichole - "In Jesus Name (God of Possible)" (Official Music Video)"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihrUIPfvTh8>)

CLOSING

We collected our **praise reports** and **prayer requests** and then closed in prayer while listening to "In Jesus Name."



ATTACHMENT 1: RECOGNIZING OUR "ITES"

"Ite"	What it Represents in Our Lives	Question to ask Ourselves
Canaanites	Represents a "peddler."	What lies is the devil "peddling" to us to replace the truth of God's Word?
Hittites	Represents "terror."	What are we responding to out of terror instead of faith in God?
Hivites	Represents a "villager."	What strongholds, "living places," are we creating in our lives for the enemy's lies to live in? What behavior in us is those strongholds "giving life" to?
Perizzites	Represents "open country" or a place "without walls."	What areas of our lives have we not established boundaries based on God's Word?
Girgashites	Represents the "unknown."	What areas of our lives are we struggling in but can't identify where it's coming from?
Amorites	Represents a "mountaineer."	What areas in our lives are we making "mountains out of molehills?" What "mountains" are we facing that we need to cast in the sea?
Jebusties	Represents the "threshing place."	What circumstances in our lives are causing us to be "sifted" where the wheat is being separated from the chaff--the useful being separated from the useless?

ATTACHMENT 2: Scripture(s): Ecclesiastes 9:17-18**TAKEAWAY: What is the one thing that stood out to you in this lesson?**

How words and wisdom are connected, especially since my entire vision for this year is about words!

Now, let's submit our H.E.A.R.T to the LORD:

H. What do you **hear** in this passage: information, application, or revelation?

Information and application. In v17, we don't have to be loud to speak words of wisdom, and then in v18, it reiterates that we can have our weapons of war (our armor), but for it to be effective, we also need wisdom, because without it, there can be a ripple affect around us ... one sinner destroys much good! This reminds me of Achan and when his actions had a ripple effect on the outcome of the battle at Ai (Joshua 7). Likewise, my words can have a ripple effect on someone else's reputation or even the outcome of things God has spoken to me.

E - What fruit, if any, can you **expect** to produce in your life based on this Word?

Proverbs 18:21 says that death and life are in the power of the tongue, so as I go through 2023 with specific words, I can expect to produce fruit (good or bad) based on the words I speak. If I want good fruit, I need to use wisdom in my speech, and it needs to impart grace to those who hear it, because where grace is, so is the Spirit of the Lord.

A - What **action(s)**, if any, do you need to take to cultivate the seed of this Word in your life?

I need to pause before I speak and listen more carefully to the things I say. There's a Hebrew word, LaShon hara that means "evil speech." And I don't want my speech to be evil, so I need to be more mindful of what I say!

R - Do you believe this Word enough for you to **rest** in it as truth you accept and, if necessary, can obey? If not, what hinders you?

I definitely believe it enough to rest in it as truth, and I believe it enough to know that God can help me with it, because He already has. I just have to continue to stay focused on cultivating good speech that aligns with Ephesians 4:29 to impart grace to the hearers!

T - Do you **trust** the Father with this Word even if things don't look like you want them to? If not, what hinders you?

Yes! Simply because He has already done so much for me in this area. I no longer spout off at the mouth in anger like I used to and for that I am grateful!