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## MEETING NEWSLETTER

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### Ephesians 3:1-13

Welcome to WoW<sup>2</sup>, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our February 16, 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.** We opened our evening with “Children of God.”

**TOPICS DISCUSSED.** We discussed Ephesians 3:1-13.

**Ephesians 3:1-13.** We summarized this section with God’s plan was made and kept from the angels and authorities. It was that important! As He continues to reveal the mystery, it should encourage us that we CAN come before Him with boldness and confidence through faith in Jesus. We also need to remember it’s not about us, but about revealing his “multi-faceted wisdom” to the “rulers and authorities in the heavens.” It’s not about us, but whose watching us, including those in the heavenlies!

**Nuggets from our discussion:** These nuggets are our Cliff Notes, as it were. So, if something is too vague or just doesn’t make sense, compare it to what the Scripture says.

That way, you'll be able to distinguish our revelations from what is in the Bible. Even with that, we encourage you to pray about our revelations, for they are simply that—revelations we received to help us apply what we are learning to our everyday lives.

- V1-2. The apostle Paul is clearly talking to the Gentiles in Ephesus. We concluded he needed God's grace to share the gospel, because we need His divine influence on our heart to share what God wants shared and not what we want.
- V1-4. God gave Paul grace to be able to share the mystery of Christ with the Ephesians. However, they first had to have heard that God gave Paul grace for them. In an everyday, practical kind of way, this concept of hearing about the grace God has given someone for us applies to anyone we trust to speak into our lives. We must believe God's grace has given them insight!
- V5. Before, this mystery wasn't known, but now the Spirit has revealed it. This was after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, which led us to believe the logical conclusion is the "other generations" Paul refers to were those before Pentecost.
- V6. Paul explains the mystery. This is where we got adopted!
- V7. Paul shares how he became a servant of the gospel – by the gift of God's grace given to him through the working of His power. While discussing this verse, we noted the promise of the Holy Spirit is from the Old Testament, when God said He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28). We also noted how the gospel is the whole thing: the death, burial, resurrection, ascension of Christ AND the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, because Holy Spirit is our seal. He's the guarantee of our inheritance. He's the down payment of our eternal salvation.
- V8. Paul is incredibly humbled by the fact that God gave him this grace to preach to the Gentiles the "boundless riches" or as the New American Standard Bible says, "unfathomable riches of Christ." We looked at the original Greek word translated as "boundless," "unfathomable," and unsearchable" in various translations. These words describe the riches "that cannot be searched out that cannot be comprehended."<sup>1</sup> Since these are riches of Christ, it makes perfect sense that we can't fathom them!

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<sup>1</sup> Strong's Bible App, G421

- V9. The purpose for Paul sharing is to make plain now the mystery that was hidden by God for ages.
- V10. We should be making God's multifaceted, manifold wisdom known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This speaks directly to Ephesians 6:12. We discussed how God's many-sided wisdom is like a diamond. It looks different depending on the side you're looking at!
- V11-12. The intent of the mystery is for the church to make God's wisdom known to the heavenlies.
- V12. The bottom line is that in Christ AND through faith in Him, we may approach God with freedom and boldness. This verse reminded us of Hebrews 4:16, which is one of our vision verses.
- V13. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to not be discouraged because he was suffering.

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

- The fullness of the gospel stood out, because before the Holy Spirit was poured out, God's plan to adopt Gentiles into His kingdom was kept a mystery for generations upon generations! The good news doesn't stop at the Cross, but it continues to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!
- We can't do anything without God's grace.
- We come as we are through faith in Christ; then the things we do are in and through our faith in Him.
- We have confident access through faith in Christ! He's the key that opens the door, so we know we can go to Him.

**Closing our discussion.** We collected our prayer requests for the evening, listened to "Famous For (I Believe)", then closed in prayer.

**Song(s) for the week:** "Children of God," by Third Day (<https://youtu.be/n9RqVRBtjM4>).  
 "Famous For (I Believe)" by Tauren Wells, Jenn Johnson (<https://youtu.be/o15X2yZ1LT8>).

**Homework Assignment(s):** Finish reading through Chapter 3, if possible.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. The current plan is to continue discussing Ephesians, chapter 3.

**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.*