

Welcome to WoW2, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We did not meet on February 14th. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our February 21, 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 are doing, and what tools we are using as we continue moving forward.

OPENING

We opened in song and prayer, before beginning our discussion.

DISCUSSION

Ecclesiastes 10. My takeaway from this chapter is in the attached H.E.A.R.T Worksheet. Other nuggets:

In v5, we used Biblehub.com commentary to gain a better understanding of what this verse means. We likened this verse to things like political favors, and nepotism, which is a real thing!

In v10, we discussed the ax being sharp. We asked the question, "Is there a spirit of oppression," and that question was answered in chapter 10. We likened the ax being sharp to our mind being sharp! We also noted a dull ax is similar to when our armor isn't in good condition and how things can backfire on us! Anything we try to do on our own and separate from having on God's armor is going to be harder. On the other hand, it's easier when the Lord helps us because He fills the gaps!

We noted several themes:

Proverbs. This chapter reminded us a lot of **Proverbs**. For instance, **Proverbs 15:1**, tells us "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger,

Upcoming Events

March 7

Night of Prayer

April 3

Spring Break

April 25

Social Week

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

which is like **v4**. We also saw similarity between **v12** and **Proverbs 14:3** regarding the difference in the speech of a wise person and a fool.

“Too many words.” In **v14**, “fools multiply words,” reminded us of “too many words,” (something a friend says) which is similar to Proverbs 10:19. Not only can those “too many words” expose what’s going on in our heart, but they can also lead us into sin!

Be prepared. The dull ax taught us that it takes preparation to complete the task at hand. It also takes preparation to properly wear the armor of God.

Some things are dangerous like using a dull ax or not having on God’s armor.

We had a great discussion on the armor.

One sister shared a great visual of David and Goliath where Saul was trying to get David to wear his armor, but it didn’t fit. Our **armor has to be God’s armor, not our own; it needs to fit right, be sharpened, updated, clean, and ready to go!** Moreover, we can’t let others cause us to act out of character.

We discussed **our shield can help cover where someone else needs extra faith.** The shields in Paul’s day could be connected together to provide more coverage. So, I might have faith where someone else doesn’t and they may have faith where I don’t, but together we can strengthen each other’s faith.

We noted our **helmet of salvation** has to fit us. We’re not to try and make what God has taught us fit someone else (something I have been guilty of in the past). Instead, we’re to help them put on their own helmet. Moreover, if our or someone’s helmet is not fitting right, even if we’re not trying to, our words or actions can hurt them. Hence, the need to renew our minds rather than hold onto hurt, especially since that hurt can hold us back.

In **v11**, we noted how like the snake biting the charmer, **a person’s words can turn against us.**

Some highlights from our takeaways



Homework

Read Ecclesiastes 11 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.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 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.

The **imagery of the helmet of salvation** was very powerful! Our armor has to be tailor made and custom fit just for us!

The heart of this chapter goes back to **wisdom with our words and with our actions**. For example, it took wisdom for David to know he couldn't wear Saul's armor. It also takes wisdom to know not to use a dull ax to cut down a tree. From this we also learned to be prepared. However, in all things, it's not our wisdom, but God's at work in our lives.

Sharpening the dull ax also taught us **it's one thing to put on our armor and another to ensure its polished, well cared for, and comfortable to wear!** In the natural and in the physical, we feel better when we look better!

Something we learned in a previous study on Ephesians is the shield had to be cleaned and oiled in preparation for battle. As we're studying Ephesians again, we're getting layer upon layer of new insight! For instance, moving forward in our vision this year, it will take wisdom and discernment to know what shoes to put on in any given situation. The analogy for that is without the right physical shoes our toes could get hurt. **Without the right spiritual shoes, our pride can get hurt! HOWEVER, we need to be mindful of pride.** When we get prideful and comfortable, we're not prepared!

"Too many words" is equivalent to pride at work! When our pride rises up, the fruit of that is what we say and do. Pride can make us defensive, as if we're a god unto ourselves. Even when we're telling our story, we need to be mindful of our tone, because even the tone behind the experience and how we share it belong to God!

When we're walking in pride, we're putting on armor, but it's not God's armor! There are ways we learn to survive, our **"false armor"** that we need to unlearn so we can wear God's armor.

RESOURCES

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

"Israel Houghton - Moving Forward"

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVEFGIyx1o&list=RDCVEFGIyx1o&start_radio=1)

Links to the Song(s) from this meeting:

"Speak To My Heart ❤️ (Lyrics) Donnie McClurkin

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCbS_6uWWUA)

"CAIN - I'm So Blessed (Official Music Video),

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4exKwB0WRk>)

CLOSING

We collected our **praise reports** and **prayer requests** and then closed in prayer."

Scripture(s): Ecclesiastes 10:10

TAKEAWAY: What is the one thing that stood out to you in this lesson?

The NASB says, "Wisdom has the advantage of bringing success." This is the version I was listening to when this verse stood out to me, because in context, just like a dull ax makes us work harder, when our armor is not well cared for and properly fitted, we have to work harder to find peace in and/or overcome our trials and challenges.

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?

I hear application and revelation. Application in that it's a reminder to put on the whole armor of God and revelation in the similarity between a dull ax and "dull" armor, especially since our breastplate, when properly shined, can be an offensive weapon to the point "righteousness" blinds the enemy of our soul.

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

The fruit I can expect is having on the full armor when I do the things I need to do, because just like a dull ax doesn't get sharpened by itself, putting on the armor requires I partner with God as well.

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

Prioritize reconnecting with what I know about the armor and do what I need to do!

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?

Yes, I believe it enough to rest in it as truth, and in order for me to fully rest in it, I need to do what I need to do to actually "put on the whole armor."

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?

I absolutely trust the Father with this Word, because the only way I get through seasons that don't look like I want them to is by reconnecting with the armor, locating where I am in the Parable of the Sower and the Seed, and the understanding the connection between the two!