Meeting Newsletter, March 8, 2022

Welcome to WoW2, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our March 8, 2022, meeting; this was our first 2022 Vision Check. This newsletter 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 gain emotional wellness and strength for the Promised Land by believing, receiving, and obeying the truth of God's Word when it comes to deliverance from bondage, deliverance through sanctification, and deliverance from bitterness and doubt.

CLOSING THE LOOP on past meetings

We did not post Meeting Notes for February 15th, 22nd, or March 1st.

February. The 15th was our first 2022 social. We spent time enjoying worship music and chatting about life's events. None of us were available, so we did not meet on the **22nd**.

March. We held our second 2022 Night of Prayer on **March 1st** during which we welcomed a new sister into our group. We spent the evening in prayer, praise, and worship as we lifted the needs of our friends, family, and loved ones up to the Lord.

OPENING

We opened with the song, "The More I Seek You." We then began our meeting in prayer followed by vision check.

DISCUSSION

The night revolved around answering questions related to our vision. Each question came from a specific verse, point, or bullet on the attached worksheet. We went through each item listed to determine where we are as a group and/or as individuals. For simplicity's sake and not to reveal personal details, the questions are listed first followed by any general observations.



Upcoming Events

March 18

Food Drive Donations Due

April 5

Off – Spring Break

April 26

Social Week

Current Vision

Revive! Restore. Refresh. Renew – Emotional wellness in the wilderness and strength for the Promised Land.

Scripture(s)

Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 43:19

Additional Verses: Romans 8:15, Romans 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:23, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 12:14-15, James 1:5-6, and John 6:29

Inspirational Song(s)

"On Our Way" by MercyMe feat. Sam Wesley

"Revive" by WorshipMob

Current Study:

Ecclesiastes

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Discussion questions

Isaiah 57:15. Are there any areas you recognize God creating brokenness or humility in your life?

Isaiah 43:19. Do you recognize anything new God is doing in your life?

Deliverance from bondage. How do you recognize bondage in your life?

Deliverance through sanctification. What does sanctification look like?

Deliverance from bitterness. Do you recognize symptoms of bitterness in your life?

Deliverance from doubt. Are you struggling with doubt in any area of your life?

How are we doing as a group? We graded ourselves on where we are with each item listed under what our completed vision should look like. While there's always room for growth, overall, we believe our group is currently operating according to the defined vision.

How are we doing individually? We had an open and honest discussion on where we see ourselves and each other concerning each item related to our emotional wellness and strength. This was a time of transparency, encouragement, and even some correction. We discovered we are doing good with allowing God's Word to correct and direct us and with uplifting, encouraging, and strengthening others. With the rest, we can see progress in every area, but we are still struggling with walking in faith and not fear. However, we are working our way up in that area as well!

Nuggets from our discussion

Since our vision uses the words "contrite" and "lowly," we took time to define these words as "broken" and "humble." I don't remember where we got "broken" from, but the original Hebrew word (H1793) is defined as "crushed." And, other translations use the word, "oppressed."

The question, **"Do you feel adopted by God?"** arose while discussing how we recognize bondage in our lives. Knowing who we are in Christ helps us overcome bondage in our lives.

Being "baptized into death" is an interesting phrase that came up while discussing sanctification.

Our discussion on humility produced several good nuggets. "**Fail your way to success**" was one. Learning to operate in **self-control** rather than being **controlling** was another. Self-control helps us be consistent. However, in our consistency, it's not about the quantity of what we achieve, but the quality and the ability to finish a thing! We also learned that sometimes humility can bring us to a place of quiet, where we don't feel the need to talk.

We shared **offense** opens the door to **bitterness**, which begs the question, "What profit do we get from being offended?" Moreover, it's the renumerating on the offense that can cause our heart to become hard, and a hard heart separates us from God's holiness and the ability to pursue peace.

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There is a difference in being a peacemaker and a peacekeeper.

But more importantly, we are not the source of our peace, nor is our circumstances. **Jesus is the Prince of Peace**, so He is where we get our peace! While the world does have a certain peace, it's not lasting!

Discernment is the key! It's learning to take each situation for what we're supposed to learn from it. That perspective buffers a lot of judgment and offense. We also need discernment to know when God is trying to birth something in or through us, but the sting of our emotions causes us to think something's dead, when it's not!

Some great advice was not functioning in a place of yesterday, as well as being able to ask for help when we need it.

When God is calling us to a larger audience, it might look different than what we were doing before.

Whenever God brings someone into our lives, He is doing something in both our lives!

Some highlights from our takeaways

We didn't do takeaway in the traditional sense. Instead, we spent the time making plans for a food drive so we can donate to a local ministry. The desire to help this ministry led to our takeaway: "God gives us the meat of His Word, and we feed others!"

Next meeting, we'll review where we left off and pick up with verse 16 to finish chapter 3, before heading to chapter 4.

RESOURCES

Links to the Song(s) from this meeting:

"Kari Jobe - The More I Seek You w/lyrics," (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI_1YliutzA).

CLOSING

We collected our **prayer requests** for the evening and then closed in prayer. Unfortunately, I don't remember which song we listened to during our closing prayer.



Homework

Ecclesiastes 3:16 – chapter 4

Next Meeting

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Tuesday, March 15, 2022 @ 7:00pm.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, please email us at

<u>wow2@wow2women.com</u> or complete a Contact Form on our website.

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NAME: WoW ²	DATE: 19 October 2021
IDENTIFY your vision and the Scripture(s) you are standing on	Revive! Restore. Refresh. Renew, so that we will have emotional wellness in the wilderness and strength for the Promised Land.
	 Isaiah 57:15: "For this is what the high and exalted One says -he who lives forever, whose name is holy: 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (NIV).
DEFINE what your completed vision should look like	Our completed vision looks like knowing we are walking in emotional wellness and have strength for the Promised Land, because we are walking in deliverance from bondage, deliverance through sanctification, and deliverance from doubt.
	 From this place of emotional wellness and strength, as a group we are able to: Fulfill God's vision to take a Bible-based, practical application journey through the Word of God (Habakkuk 2:2) Create an atmosphere that fosters transparency, discipleship, and the outpouring of God's love (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Disciple women of God in the practical application of God's Word (Matthew 28:19) Be doers of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22)
	 From this place of emotional wellness and strength, as individuals we are able to: Allow the Word of God to correct and direct us Uplift, encourage, and strengthen others Understand our emotions, but not be led by them

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	 Pursue peace and holiness (Hebrews 12:14-15) Partner with God to nurture those who may be growing weary (Psalm 145:14, Galatians 6:9, 22-23) Walk in faith and not fear, even if that means moving forward even when we're afraid (Romans 8:15)
APPLY: What steps will your need to apply to fulfill your vision?	 We will gain emotional wellness and strength for the Promised Land by believing, receiving, and obeying the truth of God's Word when it comes to deliverance: From bondage. By understanding that in Christ, we did not receive the spirit of bondage that creates fear, but we received the Spirit of adoption by whom we are able to call upon our "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15: "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father." Through sanctification. By understanding the Red Sea was a type and shadow of baptism and the newness of life that comes through sanctification; likewise, through our baptism into Christ, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (ESV) From bitterness. We do this by studying the Word (2 Timothy 2:15). letting the Word renew us in the spirit of our mind (Ephesians 4:23), and letting the Word transform us, so we will know God's good, pleasing, and perfect will (Romans 12:1-2). (Hebrews 12:14-15: "¹¹Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; ¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled. From doubt. We overcome doubt by trusting and believing that He will do what He said He will do. James 1:5-6: "¹⁵f any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁴But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind." AND John 6:29: "Jesus replied, "This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent."

KEY NOTES to this vision worksheet: This worksheet is called IDA (Identify, Define, Apply). We use it to identify our group (and sometimes personal) vision. When we complete Vision Check, we refer to this document to assess our progress.

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