
MEETING NEWSLETTER

CONNECTING THE DOTS...

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our meeting on April 28th. 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: Thriving in the Wilderness. We will cultivate a safe place to grow in a peaceful environment by preparing the soil of our heart to receive and respond to God's guidance, anchoring ourselves in the Holy Spirit. **We will operate** according to the established guidelines of our group, all of which will bring to light the changes we need to make in our lives, so we can gain the nourishment necessary to grow as individuals and as a group.

Thriving, while in the Wilderness, **will be the outcome of our growth.**

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Lesson 6 – Connecting the Dots.

- **Expectations.** When we expect others to be like us, it creates frustration. As we learn to overcome that mindset, we may still be frustrated, but our expectations change. And, when we remove our expectations for others to be like us, we remove their power to hurt us.
- **Straddling the fence.** We defined a straddle as when we have saving knowledge, but we're still attached to the world and afraid to let go. In other words, we're trying to live in two worlds at the same time. When we find ourselves here, we have to ask, why are we afraid to let go? Is it because we're not trusting Him? If so, in what area are we not trusting Him? Our discussion led to several verses and other nuggets:
 - **Jeremiah 48:11.** Sometimes, we straddle the fence between what we know God wants us to do and what we want to do, because we want to be in our feelings. The Lord used this verse to illustrate how our taste nor smell changes,

so we stay stuck in our ways. We also took note of the fact, losing the sense of taste and smell are two of the symptoms of the Coronavirus causing a world-wide pandemic right now! **TAKEAWAY.** Being stuck causes us to keep doing things the same way, so we never experience something different. In order to get unstuck, our heart has to be open.

- **Matthew 6:24.** This verse teaches us we can't serve two masters, but what I found to be most interesting is when we looked up the definition of "mammon," we learned one definition is, "riches (where it is personified and opposed to God)" (emphasis added). The concept of how we personify our riches really stood out to me and led us to **Revelation 3:17**—we think we're rich, because we have all this "stuff," but in actuality, we are really "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked!" Therefore, it's important to understand we are stewards over what God has given us, not owners. Moreover, because we believe money has power, it becomes our god! And, power can be corruptive! **TAKEAWAY.** We are merely stewards over what God has given us. Without Him, we are "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked," because mammon, anything we personify as our god, does not have the power to save!
- **Revelation 3:14-16.** We realized we can deceive ourselves into thinking we've found the perfect balance between God's kingdom and the world, and that what we're doing is okay. However, these passages teach us when we try to straddle the fence between what God wants and what the world says is okay, we are like the lukewarm church; the one that is neither hot nor cold, so God says He will vomit it of His mouth! We actually heard an interesting analogy of how some hospital faucets only go between hot and cold, but not lukewarm. **TAKEAWAY.** It's not about what we think is okay. It's about learning from our lessons, so we can allow Holy Spirit to convict and correct us.
- **James 4:17.** There are times we know what to do, but don't want to. Instead, we'd rather be in our feelings, which is a part of why we end up straddling. The message of this verse is we sin when we don't do the good we know to do. **TAKEAWAY.** Our feelings can cause us to straddle between God's kingdom and the world, putting us in a place of sin!

- **Narrow vs wide path.** We also described straddling as trying to walk in between the narrow and the wide path, which actually causes us to prolong our journey. Instead, we should go straight and follow Jesus, but there are times we don't want to. We get caught up in distractions. **TAKEAWAY.** Don't allow distractions to cause us to take our eyes off following Jesus.
- **OVERALL TAKEAWAY.** Imagine trying to walk across two fences! You don't want to straddle too long, because after a while, it's going to start pulling on your muscles and hurt!
- **This or that.** We discussed how people can approach the same situation differently. Sometimes, it's not about this OR that, but this AND that. This helped us to have more compassion on others when they make a decision different from what we would have made, especially during this time when some are faced with life or death decisions in the midst of this pandemic.
- **In the Soils.** We reiterated, we can be in any or all of the soils at the same time, depending on our circumstances. We also talked about walking out the wayside, rocky, and thorny to get to good ground! However, we also acknowledged we get caught up in the cares of the world. **TAKEAWAY.** Stay focused on Christ! Trials will come. If we're fully committed to stay focused, trust, and cultivate the soil of our heart, then we'll get to good soil.
- **Producing fruit.** Good ground produces fruit, but we can't let the fruit rot! In other words, don't stay in a place of indecision too long. We have to remember the enemy comes to steal the Word EVERY TIME we hear it to keep us from producing fruit. He will use rejection, pride, discouragement, feeling tired, or anything else we're dealing with to come against us. However, if we learn to count it all joy when we're going through trials, we can learn how to give God the glory as we walk by faith and not by sight. In addition, if we learn how to treat others the way we want to be treated, we are more likely to produce fruit. Last, but not least, it's important to realize needing to be right is about pride, and pride kills our fruit! **TAKEAWAY.** Be aware fruit can rot, so don't stay in a place of indecision, mistreat others, or walk in pride. Instead, it's important to walk by faith and not by sight.
- **Other nuggets.**

- Rejection and/or abandonment can be the root of our pain.
- Read. Study. Pray, and obey every day!
- There's nothing we experience the Lord can't get us through. Nothing is worse than what He endured. Therefore, who are we to demand anything of others?
- When we go through trials, we always think it's about us, but it's not. It's about those who are watching us and those who can benefit from what we learn!
- Follow others ONLY as they are following Christ!
- Trust in what I know and what I have learned.
- Remember to trust in Him.
- Be purposeful in going to the Lord, in listening for the Holy Spirit, and in praying praising, and being thankful. Thankfulness gets rid of a whole bunch of heart issues!
- Abide in Christ and let His Word abide in us.
- Be fully committed!
- Let Holy Spirit check us, and ask Him to convict us when we're doing wrong.
- Spend time with God, so we'll know where we are and what needs to change.
- Verbal confession allows us to release what we need to let go of.
- We can't make God do all the work, so get rid of our excuses, and build our relationship with Him, so He can hear from us and help us get rid of those excuses.
- **Revelation 12:11.** We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. That's the importance of small group. We are being healed as we share with each other, which can also help someone else to heal. The enemy tries to make us think we're the only one going through something, but when we share, we realize we're not alone.
- We are fulfilling our vision as a small group by creating a safe place!
- We don't have to be ready for what comes. We can however, keep leaning on Him and not on our own understanding, and He will ready us for what comes!

Song for the week: Our song of the week is “Because of Who You Are, by Martha Manuzzi (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owxwoWXoKWY>) or Vicki Yohe (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6WexG9uAJI>).

Homework Assignment(s):

- Evaluate your reflections from Connecting the Dots in terms of your vision.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on May 6th via Zoom. The current plan is to finish Lesson 6 – Connecting the Dots.

Closing: Our closing prayer turned into a time of ministry, and a time of healing for one of our sisters. As I prayed, I heard the words “breakthrough” and “rushing wind.” Long story short, after group, I had a conversation with one of the sisters, and Holy Spirit had her share “the wind was God’s breath blowing on all of us. This was the breath of healing, a breath of reconciliation.” She went on to share “when [God] breathed into us (Genesis 2:7), it was that we would have life and have it more abundantly.” May His Word produce an abundant harvest in our lives!

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.