
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Anniversary Celebration

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We took the month of September off; therefore, this newsletter captures topics discussed during our 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.

WELCOME. This was our anniversary meeting; therefore, we consider this our new year, because it's when we reset as a group. We were also blessed to welcome one of our sisters back home.

TOPICS DISCUSSED. During this meeting, we discussed the following:

Opening. We opened with a praise dance to the song, "Once And For All," by Lauren Daigle (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oaRYLEleis>). The purpose was to establish us in worship before going before the Lord to discuss our past year.

The current calendar. I reformatted the calendar, so it actually captures our meeting year. That means, the calendar now runs from October to September. The main goal is to more accurately reflect our group schedule; I also hope this will help me not let down as we approach the end of the regular calendar year. Instead, I'm hoping this change will inspire me to stay focused and be more purposeful in preparing us for the coming months.

Matters of the Heart Study. We didn't finish all the lessons originally planned for the study; however, we finished what was needed. One of the lessons learned is the study needs to be whittled down to 7 lessons: Intro, a lesson on each of the soils, Connect the Dots, and Conclusion. That will allow anyone doing the study to digest the soils by themselves as not to get overwhelmed.

Our Next Study. We discussed the need to take the information we've learned and allow that to lead to revelation, which will result in application. One of the main questions that has consistently come up over the years is "How do I do that?" Therefore, this year, we will take what we learned from the parable of the sower and the seed and apply that to a study on Ephesians, focusing on how each of us processes information.

Cultivating Our Vision Statement. WoW2 is now 15 years old, which means we are in a season of rest;¹ therefore, in the hope that we will learn how to rest in God's grace, our vision statement is "Grace Like A Flood," which came from our Fall retreat. As it currently stands, Holy Spirit has been using Fall retreat to set the tone for our coming year in small group!

Assessing Group's Progress. We looked at our "2020 Declaration of Faith," to see how we did as a group. Overall, we believe group is a safe place; however, we didn't necessarily do good about ensuring our cup was full. For some of us, that was spiritual. For others, it was physical. And, in some cases, it was both! However, when our cup is empty, our emotions can make it hard to receive. Unfortunately, part of that was because we allowed the pandemic to change how we approached our calendar. Since we had to start meeting virtually, we didn't take our scheduled breaks, which caused us to press forward way too hard! In that pressing, we got tired and overwhelmed, which is why we took the entire month of September off!

Formulating Our Vision.

- **Butterfly or Anchor.** We discussed whether to use a butterfly or an anchor as the visual representation for our vision. We chose the anchor; because it symbolizes security and steadfastness. However, we're using a different anchor this year for a couple of reasons. One, after doing some research, I found out the crown of the anchor hits the bottom first,² so we're choosing an upright anchor. Two, an upright anchor that's standing up speaks to our being balanced.
- **Foundational Verses.** Our Fall retreat, H.E.A.R.T. (Hear. Expect. Act. Rest. Trust.), provided three of our foundational verses: Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 139:14, and 1 Thessalonians 5:23. However, for our anchor analogy to work, we needed one more verse, so we discussed Scriptures that speak "love" to us, because without God's love, we cannot flow in His grace! After sharing several verses, we agreed on Proverbs 3:5-8, because it's in a relationship built on trust that we experience His love for us, and He experiences our love for Him!

¹ Kevin J. Conner, *The Tabernacle of Moses*, (Portland: City Bible Publishing, 1976).

² Jassad, Rajeev Capt. "The Ultimate Actionable Guide of Anchoring a Ship." *My Sea Time*, 13 Feb 2016, <https://www.myseatime.com/blog/detail/the-ultimate-actionable-guide-of-anchoring-a-ship#:~:text=When%20an%20anchor%20is%20dropped,alway%20hit%20the%20bottom%20first.>

- **Impact of the Crown Hitting First.** The crown hitting first brought up the following analogy, “If you fall on the crown of your head, you’ll crack your skull open, so the Lord will have to put everything back together. He will have to renew your mind. Your strongholds, [and other things] have been cracked open, so that’s the perfect time for the Lord to put everything back together as it should be.” This image reminded us that head knowledge before heart knowledge makes perfect sense if we’re landing on the crown of our head!
- **Placement of our Foundational Verses.** Once we have settled on a new anchor, the placement will be as follows: **Psalm 139:14** will be up top, because we start off by thanking Him. **Hebrews 4:16** will be the stem, because once we thank Him, we are able to approach His throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need, which allows us to “drop anchor” in **1 Thessalonians 5:23**, for God to sanctify us through and through. Last, but not least, **Proverbs 3:5-8** will be the rope that ties it all together, because His love for us, and our love for Him, enables us to trust Him in the process.
- **Abiding in Love.** The concept of love led to 1 John 4:16, “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in Him,” which led to the vision of dropping our anchor in water!

Meeting Day. We will continue to assess our meeting day, because once this pandemic is over, some of us will no longer be able to meet on Wednesday.

Takeaways. We closed the evening by sharing our takeaways. Some nuggets were:

- It’s important that we take time to get spiritual rest; otherwise, in our striving to keep going, when we can’t get everything done, we end up looking at ourselves in a negative way! Sometimes, we wish we could be in a bubble in order to fill our cup while we rest!
- We’re grateful God is our anchor!
- We recognized how much love and trust are intertwined!
- In looking at different versions of Psalm 139:14, we decided to combine the NLT and the NIV versions, so it will read for us as, “Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex, [because I am fearfully and wonderfully made]! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it!” We created this rendition, because the word

“complex” can sometimes be received negatively, and combining translations overcomes that!

Homework Assignment(s):

- We'll continue assessing where we are as a group, so please take a moment and determine how well you believe, as a group, we fulfilled our vision, and how well you did individually with supporting group vision. This will help each of us determine what we need to take before the throne of grace individually and as a group. Use the Meeting Notes from our November 5, 2019 meeting as a guide for your assessment. You can copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d82758d1-df55-463e-9474-96fcc1d61ef9/downloads/Meeting%20Notes%2011-05-2019%20-%20Finalizing%20Vision.pdf?ver=1600976118632> or go to www.wow2women.com,
Select *Meeting Notes*, then *Thriving*, to find the Notes.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on October 14th. We will continue assessing our progress as group and as individuals, so we can continue working on our vision.

Closing: We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were 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 or complete a Contact Form on our site www.wow2women.com.