
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Group Vision (cont.)

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. 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.

CURRENT VISION. *"Grace Like a Flood."* The rest of our vision is still being developed.

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)."

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

Close the Loop. We closed the loop on the following:

- We quickly reviewed what we discussed last week.
- We finalized our Group Vision document (see attached). We also changed the name to Group Standards to distinguish between how we operate as a group and our group vision we update annually using the My Vision Worksheet.
- Effectively immediately, we will once again meet on Tuesday @ 7:00. The calendar has been updated and added to the website.
- We approved the anchor image we'll use this year with our vision (see attached).
- We finished assessing our progress as a group and finalized our Declaration of Faith.
- The Rosters are final and have been distributed.

Inspirational Songs. We really liked having a "Song of the Week," so we're going to carry that forward with "Different" by Micah Tyler (<https://youtu.be/xUT4trsrBCw>) and "Peace, Be Still), by Hope Darst (<https://youtu.be/lslpGiz3SfQ>) as our songs for this week.

Purpose of Facebook Group. In line with 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (NIV)," everyone is welcome to post inspirational words and encouraging songs in our Facebook Group.

Nuggets from the Evening: During our takeaways, we discussed several nuggets worth capturing here:

- **Understanding our strengths and weakness.** We discussed something that was shared with me outside of group. Bottomline is knowing our weaknesses help us protect them from the enemy; likewise, knowing someone else's weaknesses helps us protect theirs as well. A great visual is that of a boxer. If his ribs are hurt, he's going to protect them to keep from getting hit there. When we're aware of our (or someone else's) weaknesses, we can do like the boxer and put up our dukes, spiritually speaking, to protect that area! We also discussed how we're stronger together than the sum of our individual strengths, so when we lose strengths within group, we become weaker.
- **Update on Addressing Conflict.** Asking the other person before inviting someone else to join both of you in conflict helps keep the person from feeling ganged up on.
- **Change.** If we don't embrace change, we can't move forward, nor can we transform.
- **Thriving.** If we want to thrive, we can't harden our heart. Instead, we can learn to cultivate an attitude of thankfulness and worship.
- **Perspective.** Edify others, rather than focus on self.

FYI. "Flourishing in Any Season" Inspirational Newsletter has been distributed and posted to the website.

Homework Assignment(s): I'll put together a draft IDA worksheet based on what we've already discussed in preparation for next week.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on TUESDAY, October 27th. We'll begin pulling our vision together on our Vision Worksheet.

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.

ATTACHMENT: GROUP STANDARDS

VISION: A bible-based, practical application journey through the word of God

PURPOSE: To create an atmosphere that fosters transparency, discipleship, and the outpouring of God's love

MISSION: To bring women of God together in an atmosphere that affects transformation in us, so we may impact others

GOAL: To disciple women of God in the practical application of God's word

MOTTO: To be doers of the word and not hearers only

CORE VALUES: These are our core values. They are held together by love and commitment – for and to God and each other

- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We allow others to speak the truth of God's word into our lives, making the necessary adjustments in our lives to live out our motto.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** We are open with those we have made ourselves accountable to, so they can affectively minister to our needs.
- **INTIMACY:** We will allow our transparency to create an environment of intimacy where we allow our sisters in Christ to "in-to-me-see."
- **CONFIDENTIALITY:** We will hold dear to our hearts the things our sisters share with us to foster an environment of trust to maintain our transparency and intimacy.

ETIQUETTE REMINDER: Let everything we do and say be tempered by mercy, compassion, and love. To achieve this goal and to promote a safe and peaceful environment, we will operate according to the following guidelines:

- **Timeliness.**
 - **Meeting Time.** We start at 7:00 with whoever is present and end at 8:30. However, if the meeting is running over, feel free to text your family and let them know you are okay, or to leave early, if necessary.
 - **Late/Early.** Feel free to join us late or leave early without disrupting group. Also feel free to ask questions, even if you were late.
- **Attendance.**
 - **Tracking Attendance.** We track attendance to know, what, if anything, we missed.
 - **Checking on Absent Members.** Those new to small group have the opportunity to indicate on their "Attendee Information Sheet" whether they would like someone to check on them if they miss group consecutive weeks, and if so, how often.
 - **Inviting Others.** It's okay to invite others to small group; however, if we are doing a book or other guided study, group will be closed until that study is over. Any other time, group is always open.
 - **Leaving Group.** Should circumstances change and you need to leave group, we

would like the opportunity to pray over you during your last meeting.

- **RSVPs.** Since life gets busy, we send out a weekly reminder text, with the expectation each person will respond with whether or not she is planning to attend.
- **Addressing Conflict.** As much as we hope conflict does not arise, we realize it is always a possibility, so we established the following guidelines in order to quell offense before it can get out of hand:
 - **Someone has sinned against (or offended) you.** Keeping it simple and using Matthew 18:15-17 as our guideline, if someone does something contrary to what we know from Scripture (sins against you) or offends you in some way, 1) talk to her alone. 2) If she doesn't listen, ask someone else to join the two of you to work it out. If that doesn't work, then ask if you can talk about it as a group to see if, together, we can work it out. **NOTE:** Ask permission **first** before inviting someone to join you both in dealing with the conflict, so the other person will not feel ganged up on. If she says, no, you've have done your part, but respect her decision.
 - **Someone is offended with you.** For this, we turn to Matthew 5:23-24 and Romans 12:18 to help guide us. While this is not a strict interpretation of the two verses, the principle is, if we know someone is holding something against us, do our best to make peace with them.
- **Communicating Outside of Small Group**
 - **Distribution lists.** Since we use distribution lists to communicate outside of our meetings, those new to small group have the opportunity to indicate on their "Attendee Information Sheet" which distribution lists she would like to receive. She can also email wow2@wow2women.com at any time to opt in or out of any or all distribution lists.
 - **Small group rosters.** Those new to small group have the opportunity to indicate on their "Attendee Information Sheet" whether they would like their contact information being distributed among those attending small group, so we can communicate with each other outside of our meetings.
- **Recognition of birthdays/group anniversaries.** We will once again start sending out birthday and anniversary greetings.
- **Roles and responsibilities in small group.**
 - **Participation.** Feel free to ask questions like, "What do you mean by that," or any other question in order to ensure you understand the discussion material. However, let's remain respectful towards one another. Also, feel free to remain silent and listen if that's how you learn.
 - **Using your gifts in small group.** Everyone is encouraged to look for ways to use her spiritual gifts in small group.
 - **Facilitating small group.** Overall, we have a main facilitator during group; however, there will be times when she will need to take the initiative to keep small group moving forward and/or to protect our atmosphere.

ATTACHMENT: 2020-2021 (5781) ANCHOR¹²



¹ Hebrew year 5781. For more on the Hebrew calendar, visit https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3921740/jewish/The-Jewish-Month.htm.

² Anchor Water Stock Illustrations. Didora. Dreamstime.com (retrieved from <https://images.app.goo.gl/h8rFkcdNM5sryA18>).