

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*." We will learn how to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so we will be able to obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need.

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)."

DECLARATION OF FAITH. We will cultivate a safe place to grow in a peaceful environment by embracing our diversity, so each of us can learn according to her need, so we can operate in our gifts. We will operate according to the established guidelines of our group, all of which will help us to go boldly before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help for the transformation that comes as God sanctifies us through and through. The outcome of our sanctification will be a deeper level of trust in God, so we are not leaning on our own understanding, but acknowledging Him in all our ways, so He can direct our paths.

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

Group Vision. Working together as a team, we used the My Vision Worksheet (attached) to identify our vision, define what the completed vision should look like, and capture the steps we will apply to get there. It may need a little tweaking, but we now have a solid foundation!

- We used our Declaration of Faith to identify and define our vision.
- We used our foundational verses to identify the steps needed to implement our vision.
- We've committed to gathering prayer requests at the close of each meeting.

Inspirational Songs. We decided on two songs for this year: Let It Rain (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyZ0EyVGmNA), and Mighty River (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wadZNnTFR8E). Although these are our "official" versions

and will be added to the website, they're not the only ones out there, so don't let these versions rain on your worship parade!

Nuggets from our Discussion: Here are some additional nuggets from our discussion.

- While completing our vision, we discussed how important it is for us, collectively and individually, to be approachable when it comes to prayer, because praying together allows us to armor up, with each other, in Christ as we go before the throne of grace! Being before the throne, reminded me of a scene from the movie, "Thor." In the scene, Thor's friends went before the throne on his behalf to ask the king to end Thor's banishment to earth, which is how we want to come together for each other. What we didn't discuss during our meeting is that, while they were expecting Odin, they found Loki! Now, that's something to ponder!
- During our discussion, I felt a very strong sense of Holy Spirit as though He's getting ready to move in a mighty way in our midst!
- We recognized the importance of praying for our enemies and those we think are our enemies, BUT we have to recognize our ultimate enemy is the devil who acts like a puppeteer trying to manipulate us.
- One of us shared all the things she was thankful for when given the opportunity to address a difficult situation. We also had the opportunity to hear her testimony of how she was able to witness her growth in that moment.

Homework Assignment(s): None.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on TUESDAY, November 3rd. We'll finalize our group vision and begin working on our personal visions.

Closing: After gathering prayer requests, we closed in prayer for the needs lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

¹ Thor. Dir. Kenneth Branagh. Paramount Pictures, 2011. Film.

² This clip can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZh4KV8f4aY.



MY VISION WORKSHEET

NAME: WoW2 Small Group (2020-2021) (5781) **DATE**: 10/27/2020

IDENTIFY our vision and the Scripture(s) we are standing on

Hebrews 4:16

We will learn how to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so we will be able to receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

DEFINE what our completed vision should look like

- Walking confidently in Him to not only help small group grow and transform, but also to help each other grow and transform that we may positively impact others.
- Coming together with open arms, and welcoming requests for prayer to release the flood of God's grace in our group and our individual lives, so we can bear each other's burdens and armor up in the Spirit to go before the throne. Therefore, we will close each meeting asking for prayer requests.
- Acknowledging the transformation we see in each other along the way to help each other not grow weary while giving all the praise to God.

APPLY: What steps will we need to apply to fulfill our vision?

- Thank God for our diversity and the ability for us to operate in our gifts (Psalm 139:14)
- Practice approaching the throne of grace when we need mercy and to obtain grace to help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- Use what we learned from the study on the parable of the sower and the seed to assess how we are responding to what we learn (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
- Practice trusting God by not leaning on our own understanding, but instead acknowledging Him in the decisions we make and the things we do (as a group and individually) (Proverbs 3:5-8).
- Use Vision Check as an opportunity for each person to assess where she is to ensure we recognize the transformation Holy Spirit brings forth and/or acknowledge where we need to cultivate the soil of our heart to be good ground for the seed of His Word (Connecting the Dots).