



Raising Godly Women (RGW) – Signs and Seasons (March 9, 2016)

Raising Godly Women (RGW) is an extension of the Women of Worship Women of Witness (WoW²) bible study small group. Once a quarter, mothers bring in their daughters so the older women can teach the younger women. These notes capture our first 2016 meeting held on March 9, 2016. We opened our meeting in prayer and began our study for the evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed.

God's Mission for the Group: For the older women to teach the younger women (Titus 2:3-5)

Current Vision: The Year of Becoming: Understanding the Seasons of Our Lives

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:14: Then God said, "Let their be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night: and let them be for **signs and seasons**, and for days and years" (NKJV). (bold added)

Introduction

We opened with building our foundation upon Scripture. Since math was a common favorite subject, we likened building upon Scripture to understanding the right way to complete a math problem. There are certain things you have to know to get the right answer. Likewise, there are certain things we need to know in order to live the life God intended. So, the purpose of this lesson is to build a foundation for understanding the different seasons we go through in life and what we should expect to learn in each.

Discussion Topic: Signs and Seasons

We opened with **1 Corinthians 15:46**, "However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual" (NKJV). We used this verse as the foundation for our approach to this study. Rather than seek to first understand spiritual principles, we began with discussing what we know in the natural about signs and seasons. The goal is to then take what we see in the natural and apply it to what we cannot see in the spiritual.

Signs

When asked what comes to mind when we think about signs, we received several answers and then we discussed each of those points. Here is what we captured:

- **Road signs** – provide guidance for safety
- **The movie "Signs"** (Faith) – Mom saw "signs" of faith throughout the movie; Mom got more out of the movie than her daughter.
 - In the movie the preacher lost his faith and the signs helped him become a hero. Together they defeated the aliens with water. Two concepts we hope to explore more are working together for a common goal and the spiritual importance of water.

- We discussed pieces pulled together are bigger than the little pieces. This is something the older women learned when studying Ephesians 1. The literal definition of peace is for two entities coming together and working as one.
- **Things that mean something** – coincidental things that have meaning; repetition provides clarity, confirmation, and direction. We discussed how what appears to be coincidental is actually God at work!

Seasons

We then asked what comes to mind when we think of seasons. Here is what we captured:

- **Purpose** – each season has a purpose
- **Spring** – one daughter thought of our current season because it has perfect weather and one of our teens shared love is in the air during Spring ☺.
- **Seasons in a show** – they usually have a theme/timeline/cliff hanger contained within one season.
- **Herbs that spice up food** – provides taste
- **Seasons of growth and learning** – we experience chronological and spiritual seasons
- **The sun** – it comes up everyday!
- **Seasonal fruits** – a time and a season for everything (brought Ecclesiastes 3:1 to mind)
- **Identifiable** – Seasons have a beginning and an end

More on Signs and Seasons

- Signs and seasons are connected
- Signs tell you the seasons and seasons interpret the signs (signs that are noticed and those that are given). We know there's more understanding to be gained with this statement, but for now, it simply means the signs help us know what season we are in, and the season we are in helps us know what signs to look for.
- Signs and seasons balance each other out.
 - Balance brought to mind how we prepare for the weather based on the season. However, each of prepares and reacts differently for every season! This shows how we each face things differently based on the season of life we are in.
 - We also noted not everyone dresses the same way during a season. For instance, some people can wear shorts in cold weather and others bundle up to keep from freezing! This example teaches us to understand our differences.
- While we are physically in Spring at the same time, we are all in different chronological and spiritual seasons. Examples of chronological seasons are childhood, tween/teen, adult, and senior citizen).

Seasons God Created

We separated the whiteboard into four sections to discuss characteristics of the seasons God created. We started with Spring because that's when new life begins to blossom.

Spring

- Things grow
- Can be calm
- Rains a lot
- Allergies kick in - suffering
- Animals come out of hibernation
- Flowers bloom
- Grass grows
- Busy!
- Frequent weather changes can cause sickness if you wear too little based on the weather for that day
- People try to lose weight for summer

We summed up Spring as a busy season with lots of wonderful things happening, but allergies can cause some to suffer.

Summer

- HOT
- Longer days
- Good fruit comes out (strawberries, watermelon, to name a few)
- Summer vacation
- Lazy days
- Mosquitos
- Thirsty – need more water because of the heat
- Extra outside work
- Picnics

We summed up Summer as more uncomfortable because of the heat, and it's more dangerous because of the turbulent weather (hurricanes, tropical storms, etc). However, it's also a more recreational time!

Fall

- Leaves fall
- Beautiful colors
- Cools off so we get relief from the heat
- Harvest the fruit
- Till the ground and prepare for next seasons harvest
- Outside more
- Windy – this made us think of being tossed to and fro in the spirit realm (Ephesians 4:14)
- Days are shorter
- Frequent weather changes can cause sickness if we don't have on adequate dress
- Some still have allergies

- School starts

We summed up Fall as being work-oriented (school/harvesting), a time to prepare for winter, and dreading the upcoming season

Winter

- Cold
- Flu season/sneezing
- Snow/ice
- More dark than light (shorter days)
- More layers of clothing needed
- Increased depression because of the holidays
- Nature is resting
- We sleep more because it's darker
- Not much grows
- More house fires from using faulty electrical appliances to keep warm

We summed up Winter as uncomfortable, and we have to be careful because of the dangerous weather YET nature is resting, there's no bugs, we typically wear more clothing and desire comfort foods

Wrapping Up our Discussion

We noticed how every season has it's own work associated with it, yet all the seasons connect in a smooth transition. We also discussed how each season might look different depending on where you live. For example, Florida does not have as cold a winter as Georgia, but it IS still winter. We're looking forward to how the seasons God created will help us understand our natural and our spiritual seasons! We ended our discussion with our takeaways.

Next week's lesson: Identifying our Natural and Spiritual Seasons

We will look at the seasons we go through naturally and spiritually while reflecting on what we have already learned about the seasons God created.

Homework: Mothers and daughters talk about and reflect on what we discussed, sharing any new revelations you may receive!

Closing:

We closed out the meeting in prayer thanking God for what was shared during our time together, lifting up those who were unable to join us, and praying our time apart continue to be filled with and protected by the Holy Spirit until we meet again.

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.