



## **Raising Godly Women (RGW) – Vision and Proverbs**

### **March 18, 2015**

These notes capture our March 18, 2015 meeting. This was a combined WoW<sup>2</sup> and RGW meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and began our study session for the evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. 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:** "Purity from the inside out." **Scripture Reference:** Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in Wisdom" (New Living Translation).

**Topics Discussed:** Connecting Vision and Proverbs

**Closing the Loop:** Last week's homework was for the daughters to begin writing their Vision using IDA (Identify, Define, Apply). We went over their understanding of IDA, and the young ladies had a great understanding of what the letters stood for, but not a full understanding of how to apply it. We spent a few minutes answering questions about IDA and the girls were challenged to complete their Visions by our next meeting.

**Introduction:** We began with a review of what was discussed last week. Mothers and daughters each shared something they were able to take away from our last meeting that stuck with them until this meeting. Daughters were encouraged to make a habit of finding one thing to hold on to until we meet again. This will allow opportunity for the seed of that word to take root in their hearts and provide the strength that they will need to sustain them until we meet again.

**Discussion Topic:** Gaining a deeper understanding of how and why to live a Vision-inspired life with Proverbs as a loyal companion.

- **Opening Exercise:** Clean Cup! **Scripture Reference:** Matthew 23:26, "Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup so that the outside of the cup will be clean too" (Common English Bible). A tall coffee mug was placed on the table before the young ladies. They were asked a series of questions. 1) Does the cup look clean? 2) How can you tell? 3) If the mug is clean on the outside, but dirty on the inside, would you choose to drink from it? 4) Is it easier to clean the outside or the inside of the mug? The answers were that the mug looked clean on the outside, but they couldn't see the inside, so they couldn't tell for sure if it was clean. If the mug is dirty on the inside, they wouldn't want to drink from it, and that it is easier to clean the outside than the inside. We used this exercise to illustrate how we are like this mug. It is easier to clean ourselves up and make ourselves presentable to others on the outside. It is much harder to clean ourselves and make ourselves presentable to God on the inside. This is important to know because people imperfectly judge others based on what they see on the outside but God perfectly judges based on what He sees on the inside. Our hope is to learn to clean the inside of our hearts so well that we unintentionally sparkle on the outside as well, thereby exhibiting purity from the inside out.



- **The Four Purposes of Proverbs:** (Paraphrased from Proverbs 1):

1. To help us recognize wisdom and good advice and understand sayings with deep meaning. This is important because when the enemy is at his best, the line between good advice and Godly advice can be very blurred. Good advice can speak to minds but Godly advice ministers to our heart. It can be difficult to tell when we are listening to our mind or our heart. Where do we turn when we really need to figure things out? Often times our closest girlfriend(s). If, we learn to treat Proverbs as our closest girlfriend, we will learn to recognize wisdom and good advice and understand sayings with deep meanings. This will happen as you spend so much time with her that you know her so well you can hear her voice and advice, even when you're not around her. This takes an investment of time and care. If you learn to love her, she will be there when you need her, surprising you with her loyalty.
2. To teach you how to live intelligently and how to be honest, just, and fair. A distinction was made between living intelligently based on Proverbs (or what we called being Bible smart), and living intelligently according to the world (also known as being book smart). It is possible to make intelligent, worldly decisions that are not biblically based, allowing the world to make a fool of you spiritually. It is also possible to make a biblically intelligent decision based on His Word and look foolish to the world. It is far better to look foolish to the world than be foolish spiritually. We know this, because we are told in Ephesians 6:12, "We aren't fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens" (Common English Bible). For this reason, it is critical that we strive to make biblically intelligent decisions that will serve us well in our spiritual battles rather than settle for reaching worldly, rational resolutions that may only serve to make fools of us. Proverbs is designed to help distinguish between the two. The goal is to be Bible smart, and not just book smart.
3. To make an inexperienced person clever and teach young people how to be resourceful. We know that the enemy is crafty. So much so that in Ephesians 6:11 we are told to "Put on God's armor so that you can make a stand against the tricks of the devil" (Common English Bible). To understand this, it is important to understand what it means to be inexperienced, based upon Proverbs. Consider this example for a moment. A few years ago, I taught Political Science. I would begin the semester by giving the final exam on the first day of class. No one ever passed the exam—not because they weren't smart, but because they hadn't learned that information yet—they were inexperienced. I would then give the final during the middle of the semester and the results were better, but still, no one passed the exam. Again, not because they weren't smart, but because they were still missing information—they were still inexperienced. Fast forward to the end of the semester where I gave an open note and open book exam. I watched as the students went through the exam. Some students relied heavier on the books and notes than others, but nearly everyone took a peak or two. But guess what! They all passed the exam. They weren't smarter, but they were more experienced and had attained more knowledge. They knew what knowledge to apply and in which situations to apply it. They had even learned that when they didn't know something, the next best thing was to know where to go for the information they needed,



when they needed it. These students demonstrate the spirit of being clever and resourceful, while still inexperienced in how to attain and apply knowledge. They spent so much time with the study material that even when they were unsure of how to proceed, they knew where to go to get information that would help them make an intelligent (book smart) decision. Spending time with Proverbs, like the students spent time with their study material, will work the same way, allowing you to make life an open note, open book exam. Spending time with Proverbs will allow you to be clever and resourceful while increasing your bible knowledge and learning how and when to apply what you learn. This is how we live intelligently, even as we are still learning. Being clever, is about being swift to learn and apply ideas. Being resourceful means having the ability to find quick-witted ways to overcome difficulties. Why make the tests harder than they have to be. Use Proverbs to help you turn your next test into your next testimony.

4. *These Proverbs can even add to the knowledge of the wise and give guidance to the educated, so that they can understand the meanings of proverbs and the problems that the wise raise.* We know that understanding the meanings of deep sayings is not an easy or natural thing to do. In Matthew 13:13, Jesus tells us, "This is why I speak to the crowds in parables: although they see, they don't really see; although they hear, they don't really hear or understand" (Common English Bible). The beauty of Proverbs is in its design. As we have already discussed, Proverbs is designed to make the inexperienced clever and resourceful, to help us decide between good and Godly advice, teach us to live intelligently, and also to serve as a lifelong friend offering wisdom even unto the wise and educated. This is great news because we can't outgrow this friendship. Her usefulness grows as we do; the relationship deepens the more time we spend with her, and we become better people for knowing her. How many friends can we say that about?

- **Living a Vision Inspired Life with Proverbs as a Loyal Companion**

1. When you can see your vision, it is easy to recognize it. When you want to remember where you're going, you simply look up and there it is. This becomes harder when the clouds are moving in and the obstacles are obstructing your view. This is tricky territory because, as we've discussed, the enemy is crafty and will come and try to sell you another substance as your vision. You will need wisdom to make intelligent decisions, resourcefulness in areas where you are inexperienced, and the ability to seek and recognize Godly advice. Proverbs is designed to give you all of these things. She is divinely constructed to meet all of your needs at every leg of your journey. Living a Vision-Inspired Life is how we set ourselves on a path and find inspiration to continue when times are hard. Proverbs is how we keep the enemy from making a fool of us and selling us a false vision to get us off our chosen path.

**Nuggets of the Night:**

- Treat Proverbs like a girlfriend!
- Proverbs refuels the spirit, no matter what you are going through
- We need to learn to gain more from God than anywhere else



- You can find what you need in Proverbs, and while it doesn't change you, it does change the tools you have to work with.

**Homework:**

- Mothers are to help the daughters find a couple of verses in Proverbs to lean on when they need a little help living intelligently as discussed in this meeting. They are encouraged to find a verse that will speak to them and give them enough power to do well in the heat of the moment.

**Closing:**

- We closed out the meeting in prayer thanking God for what was shared during our time together, lifting up those that were unable to join us, and that 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](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com)*