



Raising Godly Women (RGW) – Connecting the Dots (March 30, 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. Our March 23, 2016 meeting was cancelled for personal reasons. These notes capture our meeting held on March 30, 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 References:

Genesis 1:14: Then God said, "Let there 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)

1 Corinthians 15:46, "However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual" (NKJV).

Introduction – Review

We opened our discussion by highlighting the need to not go so fast with the lessons that we miss the overall object, which is to learn! Therefore, we spent our night reviewing so we could connect the dots between what we've already learned.

Discussion Topic: Connecting the Dots

The best way to connect the dots is to go back to where you started and work your way forward. Therefore, we went back to Genesis 1:14 and looked at part of the reason why God created lights: for signs and seasons. We reviewed how both our natural and spiritual lives can also be divided into seasons with specific signs (things we can expect to see, receive, and/or experience). We took a few moments to capture a few signs in our natural and spiritual season. Some signs we all had in common, no matter what season we are in. Other signs were specific to our individual season. Now, let's take a look at what we captured ("C" means things we have in common; "I" means individual things):

Natural	Spiritual
C- Food	C – Sustenance (spiritual food)
I – College Prep	C – Provision (spiritual needs being met)

C- Provisions (shelter, clothes, and other items for every day life)	I – Maturity level (affects both our choices and our understanding of how to make those choices)
I – Some are old enough to work; others are not	C – Love (we also have a need to feel loved)
	C – Value (we all have a need to feel valued)

There were two important things we learned during this exercise:

- **We need to know God loves us.** This comes from understanding what Jesus did on the Cross and making it personal in our lives.
- **We need to know our value.** We don't know our value when we don't know how God has gifted us!

We summed up our discussion with **signs** provide us direction and guidance. **Seasons** let us know where we are, what to expect, and reveal how our experiences in a season are different than someone else's.

Connecting the Dots

After reviewing signs and seasons, we discussed three words that will help us connect the dots between our natural lives and our spiritual lives: observation, examination, and understanding.

- **Observation** – What you do
- **Examination** – Why you do what you do
- **Understanding** – The feelings and emotions behind what we do (what's in our heart)

To refresh our memories, in our last meeting we talked about how our experiences help us identify seasons. For instance, the cold weather lets us know winter is here, and mosquitos let us know it's summer. Just like we can observe these things in the seasons God created, we can observe things in the seasons of our lives. To help do that, we discussed a current problem one of our daughters is having. Here are some of the things we learned in our discussion:

- Others may not be in the same season we are in. Therefore, we need to try to understand the other person before we make a decision AND before we give advice
- We may not like the advice we're getting, because we may think it's not the "right advice." We also learned "right advice" can look different to different people.
- When we give advice without understanding the season someone else is in, the person we are trying to help can feel devalued in the situation—like her thoughts and feelings don't matter. Therefore, we need to be more thoughtful of how other people think and feel when giving advice, AND we need to be more thoughtful when receiving advice, especially when we know the person loves us.

One Last Look at Seasons

We briefly looked at how we make our decisions based on our natural seasons. For instance, depending on age, the answer to “Why did you do that” will vary.

- **Birth** – the child is not aware of what she is doing, nor will she know why she is doing it.
- **Childhood** – the child will be aware of what she is doing (for example, taking cookies out the cookie jar), but she will most likely answer, “I don’t know,” because she’s not in touch with her emotions yet.
- **Adolescent** – she is expected to be more self-aware, to be able to give an answer, and to some degree, be able to resolve her problem.
- **Adulthood** – she is expected to be even more self-aware, to be able to provide a better answer to the question, and to be better at resolving her problem.

Wrapping Up our Discussion

We ended our evening by each person sharing at least one thing she learned during this session.

Next session: June 8th, 15th, and 22nd

We will continue our discussion on understanding the seasons of our lives.

Homework:

- **Overall:** Gain a better understanding of how you make decisions, because without understanding, the devil can steal God’s Word from your heart. Understanding why we do what we do will help us learn how to recognize how we make decisions—both our natural and spiritual decisions.
- **Individual:** Each daughter was given specific homework assignments based on what she has learned so far. The mother is to help the daughters with her assignments.

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.