



## **Raising Godly Women (RGW) - Perspective (September 9, 2015)**

Raising Godly Women (RGW) is an extension of the Women of Worship Women of Witness (WoW<sup>2</sup>) small group. Once a quarter, mothers bring in their daughters so the older women can teach the younger women. These notes capture our September 9, 2015 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. 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).

### **Discussion Topic: Perspective**

This session was dedicated to introducing the concept of "Perspective" to connect the dots between Proverbs and the condition of our heart. In preparation for our exercise, we asked one of the young ladies to share a particularly stressful event in her life, which we then used in our exercise.

### **Opening Exercise**

Reading from the attached, we began the evening in the kitchen where we put some baby carrots, an egg and two tea bags (instead of coffee) in separate pots then turned them on to bring them to a boil. While we waited for the pots to boil we moved onto our discussion.

### **Reviewing the Purpose of Proverbs**

Since this is our last session for 2015, we used the analogy of studying for finals to set the tone for our review so we could begin connecting the dots between our previous topics (Proverbs and the condition of our heart) with perspective. Therefore, using her Bible, each young lady wrote down the purpose of Proverbs as outlined in the first six verses. We all liked the simplicity of the International Children's Bible (ICB), so focusing on the action words in that version, below is a snapshot of our review:

- TEACH wisdom and self-control
- GIVE understanding
- TEACH us how to be wise and self-controlled
- TEACH us what is honest, fair, and right
- GIVE those with little knowledge the ability to think
- GIVE knowledge and good sense to the young
- IF a WISE person listens, she can learn even more and find good advice. THEN, she will be able to understand wise words and stories AND the words of wise men and their riddles.

### **Group Discussion**

- We distinguished the difference in wisdom (knowing how to use information) and knowledge (gaining information).

- We discussed the difference in verse 1 (to teach wisdom and self-control) and verse 3 (to teach us how to be wise and self-controlled). In essence, verse 1 tells us we will gain knowledge about wisdom and self-control and verse 3 tells us we will learn what to do with that knowledge.
- We discussed the difference in stories and riddles. Stories give us information we can follow, but riddles are like the parables Jesus told in the New Testament, because He would then have to explain the meaning to the disciples. Thus, stories are more easily understood than riddles.

### Observations from Our Exercise

We examined what happened to each of our items and then analyzed what can happen when the condition of our heart is like that of the carrot, the egg, or the tea bags.

- **CARROTS.** Because I forgot to start the carrots at the same time as I started everything else, they were not yet soft like described in the attachment, so we left them boiling for awhile and continued to check them while we noted our other observations. Things we noted:
  - Even with the additional time, the carrots only softened a little, so we described them as extra stubborn, stiff, and not flexible! We ended up nicknaming them “haughty carrots” as a reference to Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall” (NKJV). In other words, pride gets us into trouble and being stubborn causes us to fall!
  - We then examined what can happen in our lives when the condition of our heart is stiff, stubborn, and not flexible. Like the carrot in the boiling water, our trials last longer! Longer trials can cause us to grow weary and become emotionally worn out, which can leave us feeling **defeated** and **disappointed**.
- **EGG.** We noted how following the directions in our example and letting the eggs boil for 20 minutes resulted in a perfectly boiled egg! I’m sure we’ll be able to use this later!
  - We saw how the inside of the egg that was once fragile was now hardened.
  - We discussed how, if we let our experiences harden our heart, our heart can become dark. We can reject everything and/or we can hold onto things we need to let go of so we can move on. Plus, a hard heart can cause us to become **angry** and even **bitter**.

**TEA BAGS.** We noted how the tea bags didn’t really change, but they changed the water! After adding a little sugar, we all enjoyed the tea--which was actually quite tasty! We observed how when the condition of our heart is like the tea bag, we can change other people’s lives the same way the tea changed the water.

### Comparing Proverbs to our Best Friend

In order to help us better understand how we can allow Proverbs to become our best friend (something discussed earlier this year), everyone was asked to share the name of her best friend, how often she talks to her, and the qualities she looks for in a best friend. Things shared:

- One of our daughters said she didn’t have a best friend; however, for those who do, how often they talk ranged from every day to periodically to every once in a while. Likewise, we can treat Proverbs the same way by spending time with her every day, periodically, or every once in a while. I shared how I like to read Proverbs several times a year and especially whenever I need guidance. I also

shared some of my favorite Proverbs I often quote to myself when I need guidance—much like calling on my girl friend and asking for her advice!

- When asked what attributes of a best friend they could apply to Proverbs, they said learn more from her and never stop listening!

This comparison highlighted two things. **One**, based on our particular needs, how much time we spend with Proverbs can vary just like how much time we spend with our best friend varies. **Two**, just like we look for certain qualities in our best friend, if we know the purposes of Proverbs, we know what qualities to look for in her, which will help us make the most of our time together! Summing it all up, if we look to Proverbs for wisdom and good advice, that is exactly what we will find!

#### **Next week's lesson: Planting Seeds**

Our exercise will be to actually plant seeds in a small pot of soil to show the correlation between planting that seed and planting the seeds of God's Word found in Proverbs in the soil of our hearts.

#### **Homework:**

- Know and understand the purpose of Proverbs.
- Think about how the purpose of Proverbs relates to our carrots, egg, and tea exercise.

#### **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](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com)*



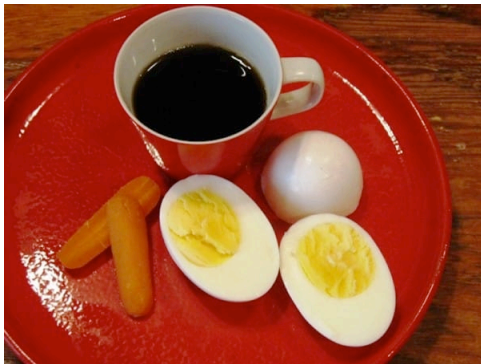
## ATTACHMENT – THE CARROT, THE EGG, AND THE TEA BAGS

### She Tells Her Grandma (A Stressful Event in Her Life) So Grandma Tells Her To Do This<sup>1</sup>

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A young woman went to her grandmother and told her [a stressful event] about her life and how things were so hard for her – [she shared the details of her stressful event] and she was devastated. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as soon as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her grandmother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.



In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her granddaughter, she asked, 'Tell me what you see.'

'Carrots, eggs, and coffee,' she replied.

Her grandmother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The grandmother then asked the granddaughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the grandmother asked the granddaughter to sip the coffee. The granddaughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The granddaughter then asked, 'What does it mean, grandmother?'

Her grandmother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it

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<sup>1</sup> Unknown author, Aug 23, 2015, Retrieved from Facebook; the event details were modified to fit our audience

softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.



“Which are you?” she asked her granddaughter. “When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?”

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity? Do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain.. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

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May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

May we all be like the COFFEE.