



Raising Godly Women (RGW) – Planting Seeds (September 16, 2015)

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 September 16, 2015 meeting. 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: "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).

Review

We took a few moments to review what we remember about the purpose of Proverbs and our exercise involving the carrots, the egg, and the tea. During our review, we had opportunity to witness how easily offense can arise when two people have differing perspectives. As we discussed the offense and how it happened, the perfect transition occurred for us to begin our discussion on planting our seeds and how that relates to the soil of our heart.

Discussion Topic: Planting Seeds

This session was dedicated to the practical application of planting seeds in soil to reinforce and expand what we have previously discussed regarding the parable of the sower and the seed and how that correlates to the condition of our heart.

Opening Exercise

We had four planting pots, four plastic bags of potting soil, and four packs of tomato seeds for each person to be able to plant their own seeds in their own soil. We noted we were making the assumption the soil was good, because it was entitled, "Seed Planting Potting Mix." Our reason for using the tomato seeds was three-fold: 1) tomatoes are technically a fruit and we are to produce fruit in God's kingdom, 2) one of the daughters had expressed an interest in wanting to grow tomatoes, and 3) tomatoes grow fast, so we could expect to see results before our next meeting. Interestingly enough, while I thought all the packets were alike, there was one pack that was different. Therefore, something I didn't anticipate was a mother asking her daughter which pack of seeds she would like. However, we'll discuss the significance of that under "Group Discussion."

To open the exercise, we looked at a very short YouTube clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUHSpeUj-NQ&feature=youtu.be>). We likened the video to listening to a sermon, a podcast or any other audio teaching by someone else. We then read the instructions on the back of the seed package, likening this to how we read Scripture for ourselves. However, as can occur with Scripture, there were some things we just did not understand! So, we read the instructions on the back of the potting soil, comparing this to how we will read various versions of the Bible for better understanding. Using what we learned from all three sources, with the instructions on the potting soil being our primary source, we set about planting our seeds.

Group Discussion

- **Selecting what we plant.** The mother asking her daughter which seeds she wanted can be likened to how we choose which seeds from Scripture we choose to plant in our heart. Just as reading the instructions on the pack of tomato seeds did not ensure the seeds got planted in the potting soil, reading the Bible does not mean the seeds of God's Word get planted in our heart. It takes action on our part to believe what we read and then take action on it.
- **We have to water our own seeds.** When we reached the point of watering the seeds we had planted, a mom went to water her daughter's seeds, but met with resistance, for the daughter wanted to water her own seeds. As the Mom spoke out loud, "Let [her daughter] water her own seeds," she received the revelation how we each have to water our seeds! And, how we do that is to keep feeding them Scriptures. For, if we don't water our seeds, they'll dry out.
- **Faith without works is dead.** We noted "doing" is a form of watering our seeds, because if we don't put our faith into action, it dies!
- **We learn what the Word says when we're walking it out.** Even though we listened to the video and read the different instructions, we didn't have the experience of planting the seeds until we did the work. And, since we couldn't remember everything we had heard in the short video, we may have missed some steps, but the good news is the more we practice it, the more understanding we gain and the better we get at it.
- **Bad seeds.** While planting the tomato seeds, someone asked what if the seeds are bad. We looked at this from a couple of perspectives. First, if we have bad seeds, our fruit won't grow. Likewise, if we have "bad thoughts"—thoughts that don't line up with God's Word—His fruit won't grow in our lives. In our discussion, we were able to see how the devil will use anyone, absolutely anyone, to plant "bad seeds" in our mind. Those seeds create emotions in us that cause us to react to others in a way that creates division, especially if we question that person's love for us. Additionally, we noted how even with good seeds, parasites can come in and harm those good seeds. Likewise, even if we've planted good seeds from God's Word in our heart, "evil" or negative thoughts can come in and harm those seeds. This practical life lesson revealed to us if we have bad seeds (negative thoughts) in our heart, two differing perspectives create conflict. BUT, if we seek to understand someone else's perspectives, we may find we can bring both views together to reach a much broader perspective together than either could on their own!
- **Connecting the Dots.** We had opportunity to tie the "Planting the Seeds" exercise back to the "Carrots, the Egg, and the Tea" exercise. One of the daughters is quite determined to grow tomatoes. It's something that means a lot to her, so she said she was going to do her best for the plant to grow. Thinking of her determination led us to take another look at the condition of our heart by looking at a different side to what happened with the carrot and the egg.
 - **The carrot.** We noted how being stubborn like the carrot can sometimes be a good thing for a couple of reasons. One, sometimes, you just have to stand your ground. For example, if others around you are making unwise decisions, you have to continue to do what you know to be right rather than follow the crowd. Two, the softening of the

carrot may be considered weak, but having a soft heart is not weak. It actually helps us have compassion on others.

- **The egg.** We were able to tie the hardening of the egg back to a conversation we had earlier in the evening when one person described the inside of the egg as firm and someone else described it as representing our being stubborn and having a hardened heart. By talking through both perspectives we are able to conclude a few things. One, Just like the inside of the egg, our heart becomes firm before it becomes hard. In other words, our heart doesn't get hard over night, which is why it's so important to pay attention to what's going on in our heart! Two, sometimes having a hard heart can be just as good as the boiled egg—after all, someone ate the hard boiled egg. We just have to make sure our heart is hard towards sin and not towards people.

Observations from Our Exercise

Here are a few other observations:

- **Trust.** Not sure how we came to this conclusion, but we realized sometimes we have to trust God over what we want.
- **Prayer.** We have to understand the condition of our heart when praying. We discussed one option for prayer is to ask God to give us the desire of our heart or to change our heart, if we're not sure what we're asking for is in God's will for us. The key point is we have to be willing to be wrong, so God can be right! Therefore, it's always good to ask God to give us what we need, even if it's not necessarily what we want.

Next week's lesson: Connecting the Dots

- We will bring everything together to show how making Proverbs our best friend and seeking wise counsel from her, planting good seeds from Proverbs, and perspective all work together for the glory of God and our continued growth in Christ.

Homework:

- Find one seed from Proverbs to plant in your heart.
- 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 or complete a Contact Form on our site, www.wow2women.com.