



# **WOW!**

## **WITH FRIENDS**

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*Facilitation Guide*



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### Introduction to WOW! with Friends

“WOW!” is short for Women of Witness. “WOW! with Friends” is designed as a small group gathering, with the aim of hosting believing and/or pre-believing friends and families, for a time of fellowship. It also serves as an invitation to build and encourage each other as we come together. You may host these gatherings in your homes or any preferred conducive venue.

Our desire is to empower you to become an effective witness where you are, and this package has been designed to assist you to host your friends. It will include:

- **Online sermonette**
- **Facilitation guide**
- **E-Salvation guide for you to lead your friend(s) to salvation in Jesus Christ.**
- **E-Hosting Kit which includes a downloadable DIY Photo booth props, posters, and personalized e-invites.**

We will love to stay connected with you and to keep you and your small group in prayer, so do let us know where and when you will be hosting WOW! with Friends.

**[WOW! With Friends Guest Access - Connect with us here!](#)**

**Password: hiswitness**

Let us be inspired, equipped and empowered to become effective witnesses for Jesus!





**Format of Facilitation Guide**

<b>1. Introduction &amp; Focus points</b>	Facilitator can introduce “WOW! with Friends” and share the focus points with the group.
<b>2. Watch Video Sermonette</b>	Watch the 10 - 15 min video sermonette.
<b>3. Key Scripture &amp; Elaboration</b>	Use the notes and scripture references to elaborate on the focus points in the Facilitation Guide to help with the learning experience of the group. The facilitator is encouraged to share her personal stories and testimonies as well.
<b>4. Discussion Questions</b>	Engage the group in the discussion and have them share their views and personal experiences.
<b>5. Challenge</b>	Invite participants to a call of action in their daily lives and walk with God.
<b>6. Closing &amp; Prayer</b>	Conclude by sharing key focus of sharing, pray for one another and close in prayer.



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### WOW! with Friends

**Speaker: Pastor Deborah Qiu**

**Sermonette: Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks**

#### Introduction

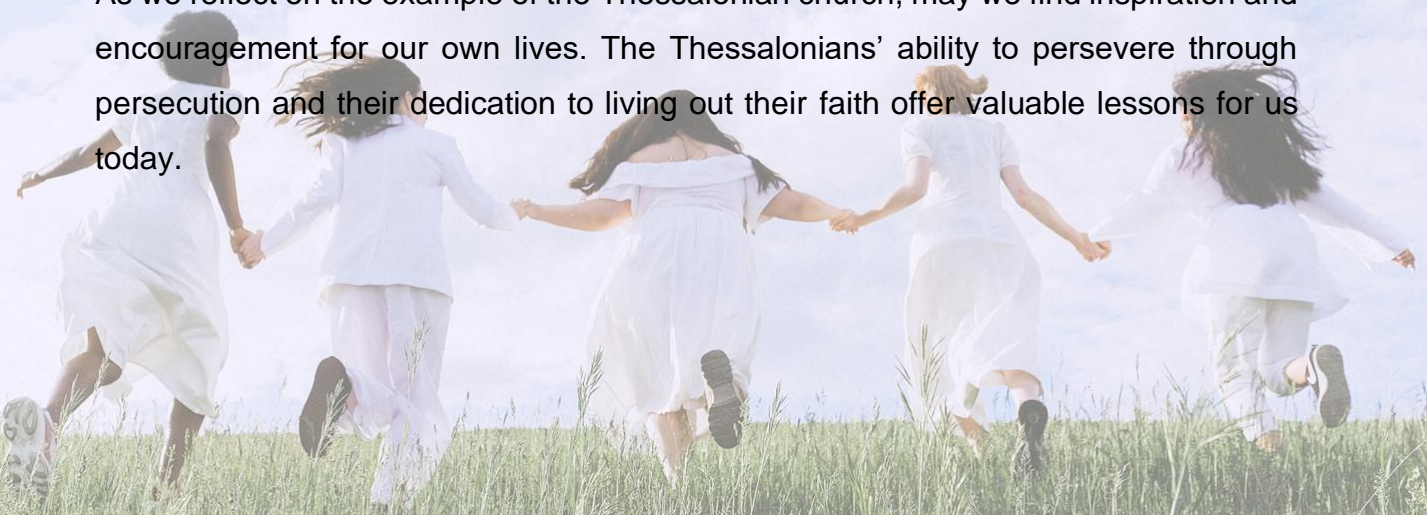
The church in Thessalonica was founded by Paul during his second missionary journey around AD 49-50. This period was a pivotal moment in the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Thessalonica was more than just a city; it was a thriving metropolis strategically positioned along the Via Egnatia, one of the most vital roads that facilitated military and trade purposes.

Paul's arrival in Thessalonica marked a significant turning point in the city's religious landscape. Despite facing resistance and persecution from both the Jewish community and local authorities, Paul's efforts bore fruit, and a vibrant Christian church began to take shape. This early church was characterized by its resilience in the face of adversity, reflecting Paul's own experiences and teachings.

Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to offer encouragement and guidance to the new believers. He delivers three key instructions in **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**: "**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**"

Paul's letter was not only a source of hope and comfort but also a vital tool for the Thessalonian church to navigate their trials and strengthen their faith. His teachings empowered them to live out a resilient faith that reflected God's will.

As we reflect on the example of the Thessalonian church, may we find inspiration and encouragement for our own lives. The Thessalonians' ability to persevere through persecution and their dedication to living out their faith offer valuable lessons for us today.



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### Focus Points

1. Rejoice always.
2. Pray without ceasing.
3. In everything give thanks.

### Watch Video Sermonette

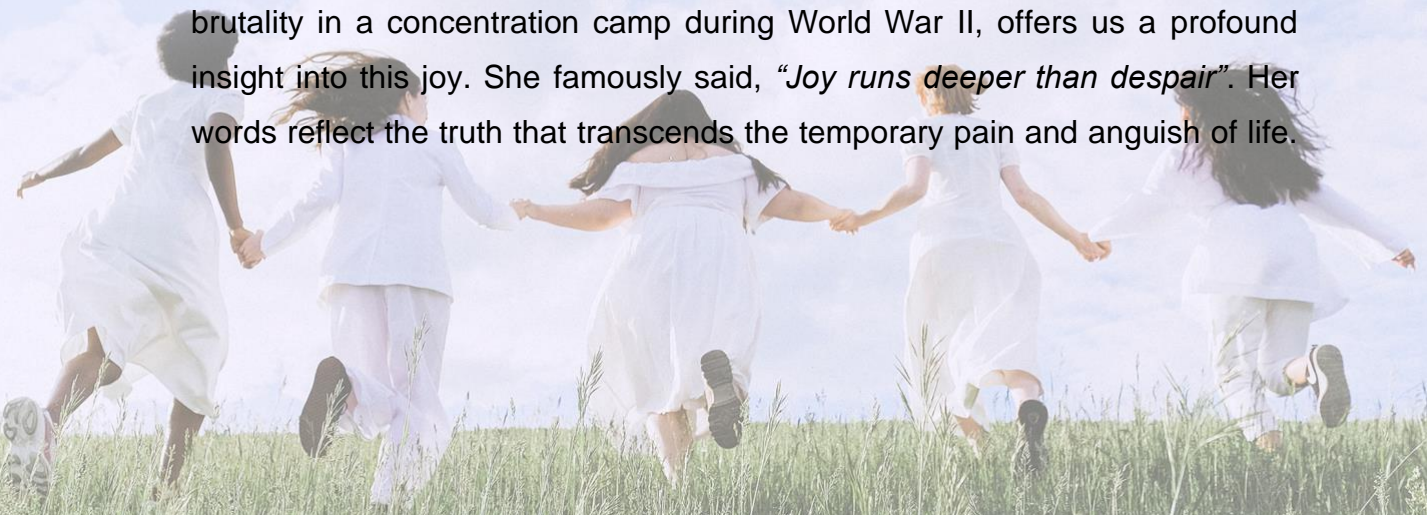
[Click here to watch video sermonette](#)





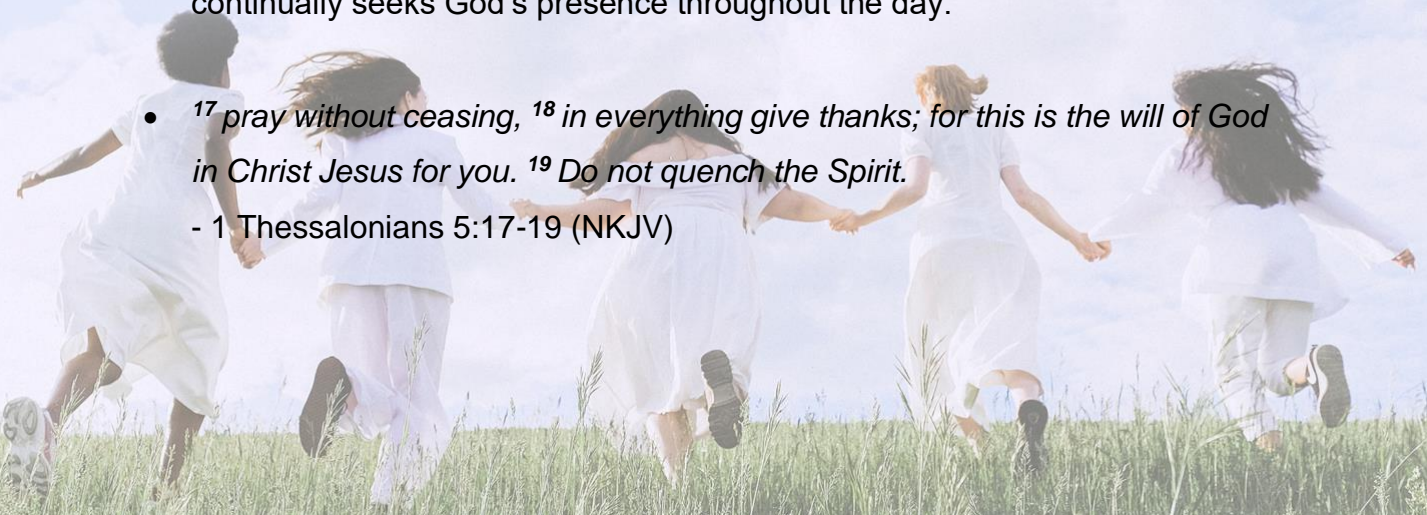
### Key Scripture & Elaboration

- *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”*  
- Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)
- Paul wrote these words from prison in Rome. Despite being unjustly detained and having every reason to complain, he chose to rejoice in the Lord. Philippians 4:4 is a powerful reminder that our joy is not a fleeting emotion dependent on our immediate situation. Instead, it is found in our relationship with the Lord.
- In a world that is often filled with challenges and hardships, it can be difficult to maintain a sense of joy and optimism. The daily grind, personal struggles, and global crises can easily overshadow our sense of happiness. Paul’s teachings exhort us to view things from a different perspective.
- *“Rejoice in the Lord always”* is a command from God. Joy is the second fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22–23, with love being the first. Just as God commands Christians to love one another even in difficult times, He also commands us to rejoice. Rejoicing is not merely a feeling, but a conscious choice we make.
- Our joy is founded in Christ, it is a consecrated and supernaturally empowered joy. As disciples of Jesus, we are transformed by the Holy Spirit, and we have been given a heart with a greater capacity for joy.
- Corrie ten Boom, a remarkable woman who faced unimaginable suffering and brutality in a concentration camp during World War II, offers us a profound insight into this joy. She famously said, *“Joy runs deeper than despair”*. Her words reflect the truth that transcends the temporary pain and anguish of life.





- *“The joy of the Lord is your strength”* (Nehemiah 8:10). Nehemiah knew that God’s joy is a powerful fortress. The joy of the Lord protects us from being overwhelmed by sorrow and despair. Just as ancient cities had a high place for refuge, the joy of the Lord is our spiritual refuge. Paul also speaks of being *“more than conquerors”* through such joy.
- *37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*  
- Romans 8:37 (NKJV)
- Even when we encounter deep sorrow, we can still experience joy because our foundation is in a hope and truth that transcends our earthly trials. The Lord remains the same—sovereign, good, and merciful. His promise to bring good from every situation remains steadfast.
- *28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*  
- Romans 8:28 (NKJV)
- Just as we are instructed to rejoice always, we are also called to pray continually. Let our lives be interwoven with prayer, as it is the key way we communicate with the Lord, make our requests known, seek His guidance, and deepen our relationship with Him.
- Prayer is not meant to be a burdensome duty but a joyful and ongoing conversation with God. Praying without ceasing cultivates a heart that continually seeks God’s presence throughout the day.
- *17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.*  
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 (NKJV)

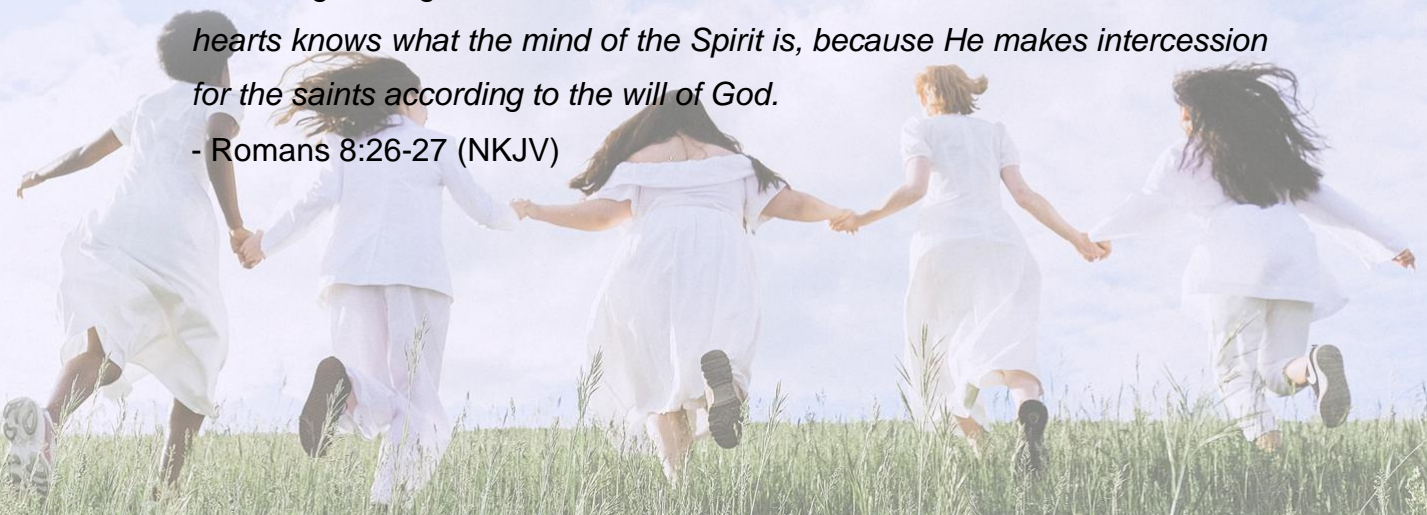


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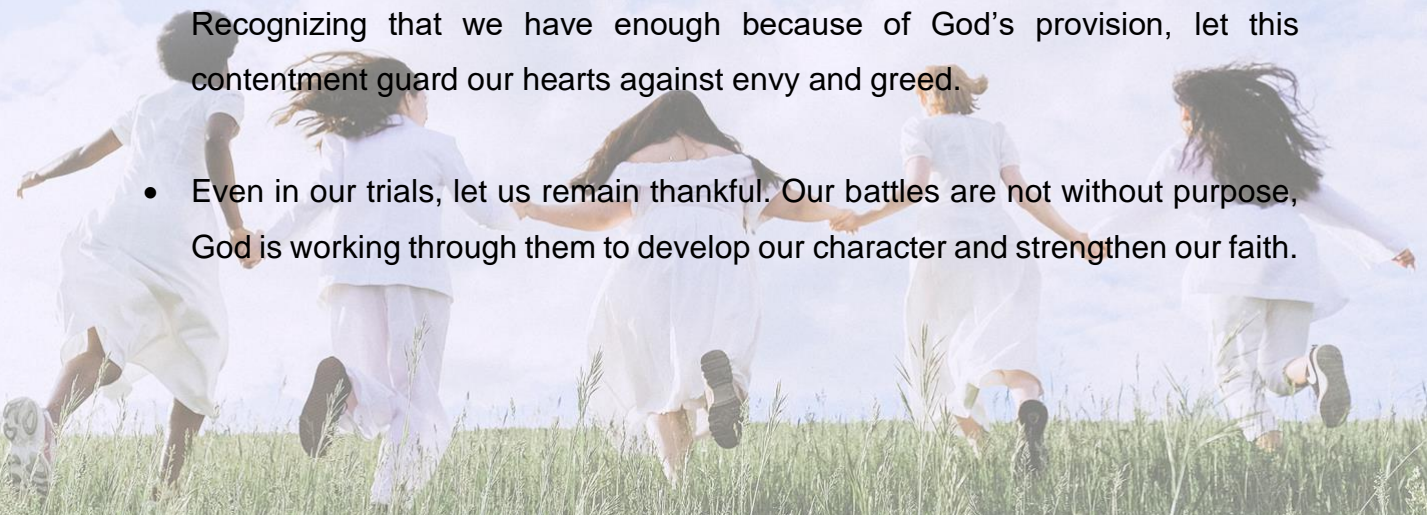
- *<sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*  
- Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)
- We are called to pray for the brokenhearted, the marginalized, and the oppressed, trusting that our prayers can effect real change. James 5:16 reminds us that *“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”*. Let us engage in prayer with courage and steadfastness, knowing that our Heavenly Father listens to and answers our cries.
- Mother Teresa’s quote *“Prayer is not asking; Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God”* also reminds us that prayer goes beyond merely asking for help; it’s about surrendering ourselves and others into God’s loving care and believing in His power to bring healing and transformation.
- *<sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*  
- Matthew 19:26 (NKJV)
- The Holy Spirit’s intercession is a profound gift that helps us in our weakness, expressing what we cannot articulate in our prayers and aligns our prayers with God’s perfect will. Let us be vigilant not to quench the Spirit but to embrace His guidance and allow Him to work effectively in our lives.
- *<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup> Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*  
- Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)







- *18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*  
- Ephesians 5:18-20 (NKJV)
- Paul reveals what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18-20. When we are filled with the Spirit, our hearts become a wellspring of worship, bubbling over in the form of songs and music directed to the Lord.
- A Spirit-filled person naturally expresses thankfulness to God, embracing the practice of praising Him in every situation. This genuine gratitude reflects a heart that acknowledges God's constant presence and grace, whether in times of blessing or hardship.
- Thanksgiving becomes a vital expression of worship for the Spirit-filled believer, allowing them to maintain a posture of praise no matter what they face.
- *"In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."*  
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Let us give thanks for the blessings that abound, both big and small, recognizing that every good and perfect gift comes from above.
- May we be thankful in times of blessing and live a life of contentment. Recognizing that we have enough because of God's provision, let this contentment guard our hearts against envy and greed.
- Even in our trials, let us remain thankful. Our battles are not without purpose, God is working through them to develop our character and strengthen our faith.



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### Discussion Questions

1. Share a recent experience where you found joy despite challenges.
2. What are some ways you have experienced growth or change through prayer?

### Challenge

1. Make gratitude a regular part of your life. Start a gratitude journal and write down three things each day that you are thankful to God for. Practice saying "Thank you, God" in tough moments, even when you don't feel like it.
2. Maintain your commitment to daily prayer. Set reminders or alarms to prompt your prayer time and find a prayer partner for accountability.

### Closing

In closing, may we be encouraged to rejoice in the Lord during our trials, with a joy grounded in a hope that exceeds our present challenges. Let us dedicate ourselves to praying without ceasing, developing a constant and heartfelt conversation with God that strengthens our faith. And may we strive to give thanks in all circumstances, acknowledging God's presence in our lives and trusting in His good plans for us, even when we cannot fully understand the journey. May we carry these teachings with us and let them shape our faith and actions in the days to come.

### Prayer

1. Pray for God to transform our desires to be more like His and guide our wills to align with His divine plan. (1 John 5:14-15)
2. Pray for the faith to trust in God's good plans for our lives, even when the future seems uncertain. (Jeremiah 29:11)

