

Facilitation Guide



WOW-WITNESS.ORG



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

1. Introduction & Focus points	Facilitator can introduce "WOW! with Friends" and share the focus points with the group.
2. Watch Video Sermonette	Watch the 10 - 15 min video sermonette.
3. Key Scripture & Elaboration	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.
4. Discussion Questions	Engage the group in the discussion and have them share their views and personal experiences.
5. Challenge	Invite participants to a call of action in their daily lives and walk with God.
6. Closing & Prayer	Conclude by sharing key focus of sharing, pray for one another and close in prayer.



WOW! with Friends Speaker: Assistant Pastor Bernice Ban Sermonette: God's Appointed Time for All Things

Introduction

The Hebrew word *Qoheleth* (translated as "Ecclesiastes") means "one who calls or addresses an assembly," it also refers to a preacher or teacher. The author of the book of Ecclesiastes is introduced in the first verse as the son of David, king in Jerusalem. No one fits this description better than Solomon, as he is known for his unparalleled wisdom and wealth.

His reflections are shaped not only by his authority as a king but also by the profound personal experiences he has lived through. Having encountered both the heights of success and the depths of struggle, Solomon's insights are grounded in the reality of life's complexities. This combination of wisdom and lived experience gives his words a unique depth, making them not only authoritative but also deeply relatable and impactful. His reflections are born from the knowledge that true understanding comes not just from intellect, but from the trials, joys, and challenges faced in life.

Throughout the book, Solomon surveys the fruit of his labor and the wealth he amassed, ultimately declaring that all his efforts are vanity and a "chasing after the wind." Despite its sobering perspective on life's transience, Ecclesiastes does not leave the reader without hope. Instead, it points to a higher truth that offers lasting purpose: the key to a meaningful life is to "fear God and keep His commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

As we engage with this book, may we open our hearts to the wisdom it offers and learn to align our lives with the Creator's purposes, discovering the deeper, lasting fulfillment that comes from living in accordance with His will.





Focus Points

- 1. Embrace Every God-Ordained Season
- 2. Testify to God's Eternal Purpose
- 3. Live with Joy and Gratitude as a living testimony

Watch Video Sermonette
Click here to watch video sermonette







Key Scripture & Elaboration

- ¹ To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: ² A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; ³ A time to kill, And a time to heal: A time to break down, And a time to build up; ⁴ A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; ⁵ A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; ⁷ A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; ⁸ A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
- The first 8 verses of Ecclesiastes 3 remind us to embrace every God-ordained season. It teaches us that there is a time for everything under the heavens joyous moments, challenging seasons, and everything in between.
- Solomon declares that the universe and the works of God are governed by time. Likewise, we are also bound by time in every part of our lives. We will only be free from time when it comes to an end. Until then, we must be aware of time and use it wisely.



- As we navigate our own seasons of life, we are also called to be aware of the seasons in the lives of those around us. The Bible teaches us that we are not only to focus on our own journeys but to also discern and respond to others who are struggling or in need.
- ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
 Galatians 6:2
- In Galatians 6:2, highlights the importance of being aware of and responding to the struggles of others. By understanding and being present in others' seasons, we become more compassionate, reflective of God's love, and better equipped to walk alongside those in need.
- The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in helping us understand when to speak, listen, and act with love. Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading is essential to being a witness for Christ.
- There are appointed moments when God opens doors for us to act, whether in evangelism, service, or encouragement. If we fail to recognize those moments, we may lose the opportunity to be a witness for Christ.
- ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil
 Ephesians 5:15-16
- To walk "circumspectly" means to walk with careful awareness and thoughtfulness. In other words, we should be intentional about how we live and what we prioritize, recognizing that every moment matters.



- ⁹ What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? ¹⁰ I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. ¹² I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, ¹³ and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him. ¹⁵ That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past. Ecclesiastes 3:9-15
- As believers, our mission is not only to live for ourselves but to testify to God's eternal purpose. All our life decisions should be motivated by a desire to honor Him.
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." This reminds us that all our life decisions, no matter how small, should be done with the aim of glorifying God. Our divine task is to reflect Him in everything.
- In Ecclesiastes 3:10, the word "occupied" (or "exercised" in the King James Version) highlights that we are to be actively engaged in the work God has called us to. We are not to be passive but actively pursuing the tasks set before us in each season of life.

May we be active, fully engaged in the work that God has set before us.



- "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."
 Acts 20:24
- ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- Despite facing many trials, Paul stayed dedicated to his calling and mission.
 Paul lived for God's glory, mentoring Timothy and everyone who reads his words, including us today. His emphasis on the crown of righteousness serves as a reminder to us that the trials of this world are temporary and that living a life that honors God has eternal significance.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 also tells us that we cannot fully understand God's plan from beginning to end. We are limited in our understanding, but we are still called to trust in His eternal plan and live with the hope of eternity.
- The struggles and trials we face now are shaping us to better appreciate the glory that God has promised us. Just as gold is refined in fire, our faith is refined over hardship, and the outcome will be a far greater reward.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- Romans 8:18



- Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, highlight the importance of finding joy in God's daily blessings and cultivating a heart of gratitude, recognizing that every moment is a gift from Him.
- True satisfaction comes from God, not from our own efforts. In a world that emphasizes chasing success and material possessions, Ecclesiastes reminds us that true joy is found in valuing what God has already given us.
- Gratitude, especially in difficult times, becomes a powerful testimony. And living with joy in all circumstances demonstrates our trust in God's goodness and faithfulness.
- ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - Philippians 4:6-7
- Philippians 4:6-7 is an invitation to bring our burdens, fears, and desires before God, not with anxiety or doubt, but with a thankful heart. Even during uncertainty or difficulty, we are called to remember God's faithfulness and trust that He is in control.
- The key is that our thanksgiving is rooted not in our circumstances but in God's character and goodness. Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to the abundant blessings He has already given us. It reminds us of His unwavering presence, His mighty power, and His steadfast promise to never leave or forsake us. When we bring our requests with thanksgiving, we acknowledge that our trust in God's ability to meet every need and every concern.





Discussion Questions

- Solomon lists various seasons in life, such as a time to "laugh," "mourn," "plant," and "pluck up." Which season from these verses resonates with you the most and why?
- 2. What are some practical ways we can point others to the eternal hope we have in Christ, especially in a world that is constantly chasing after temporary pleasures?

<u>Challenge</u>

- 1. Identify and embrace the season you're in—whether it's a time of joy, challenge, growth, or waiting. Reflect on how you can honor God during this time.
- 2. Share how your faith in Christ has given you a deeper sense of purpose and joy with someone who may be focused on temporary pleasures or success.

<u>Closing</u>

Let us live with the awareness that every moment is a gift from God, and that true satisfaction is found in honoring His will. May we continue to live in gratitude and point others to the hope we have in Christ. As we go through our daily lives, may we remember that God's timing is perfect, and His purposes are eternal. Let us trust His plan, embrace every season knowing that all things are ultimately in His hands.

<u>Prayer</u>

1. Pray that your life will reflect God's glory, no matter what season you are in.

 Pray for discernment to recognize the seasons others are in and the wisdom to support them in their journey.