

## **CBWC Women in Focus Ministry Idea**

### **The Gathering Outlines**

I

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am! Mt. 18:20

I) Getting to know you: Take turns answering the following questions:

What is your favourite season of the year and why?

What is something you look forward to or else kind of dread with the beginning of the September start-up?

II) Read Galatians 1: 1 – 10 and then discuss the following questions:

In what ways do you feel “rescued from the present age”?

In what ways do you feel that you are still in the thick of the battle and not removed from this age at all?

Paul is determined to NOT be a people pleaser. He does not want to compromise any of the truth as God has revealed it to him.

Are there ways that you are a people pleaser?

Does this ever cause you to compromise your principles?

What do believe are the basic essentials of the Gospel that must never be compromised?

What are some ways you see that the Gospel has been compromised by false or misleading teachers? One example might be the emphasis of being saved by good works rather than by faith, for good works.

Can Christians be all things to all people?

III) In turn, share something you would like prayer for and then the other two will lay a hand upon you and pray for you.

## II

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am! Matt. 18:20

I) Getting to know you: Take turns answering the following fun questions:

What was the worst hairstyle you ever wore – tell a hair-raising horror story!

What was the best costume you ever wore and what was the occasion

II) Read Galatians 1: 11 – 24 and then discuss the following questions:

What are some things in Christianity today that may be 'man made' and not really the original message of Jesus?

How do we distinguish revelation from God with the teachings of man both in society and within the church?

Paul has a past to overcome. He is not trusted because of his former life as a persecutor of Christians. So in this passage of Scripture, he is defending his calling and ministry.

There may be things in our past that hinder our witness today. What are ways that Christians wear masks to hide what they have struggled with in the past and put on a front to others? Paul is not afraid to be vulnerable and shares honestly where he has come from.

How has God helped you to overcome your past and to move forward as a believer?

Do you believe that "God who set you apart from birth and called you by his grace was pleased to reveal his Son in" you? How might people see Jesus in you?

How do you shut out worldly voices so that you can clearly hear God speaking to you?

III) Close by sharing some areas you would like prayer for and then praying for each other one at a time. Lay hands on a knee or shoulder and pray for one of you. Then let the next person share and pray for them.

### III

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am! Matt. 18:20

I) Getting to know you: Take turns answering the following question:

Share a favourite memory of something one of your children said or did that was funny or meaningful. Or you may share what you really like about your children.

II) Read Galatians 2: 1 – 10 and then discuss the following questions:

Barnabas was known as an encourager. He went along with Paul to face the leaders of the Jerusalem church in order to validate his ministry to the Gentiles. Who has been an encouragement to you – someone who has come along side of you and helped you face a difficult time? Have you been a 'Barnabas' to someone and how did you feel in that role?

Titus went with Paul as an example of a gentile who had become a Christian but is not circumcised, a problem to the Jewish Christians who continued to follow the law. Paul fights for freedom in Christ. What does that freedom mean to you? What are the expectations that get added to the Gospel that aren't part of freedom in Christ? Are there any ways that you feel an exception to the 'rule' within Christianity – that you haven't met certain expectations?

Do you have any visions for ministry that the church doesn't have at this time and you feel alone in your calling? Would it help to receive 'the right hand of fellowship or a blessing to begin a new ministry you feel called to?

III) Close by sharing some areas you would like prayer for and then praying for each other one at a time. Lay hands on a knee or shoulder and pray for one of you. Then let the next person share and pray for them.

#### IV

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am! Matt. 18:20

I) Getting to know you: Take turns answering the following question:

What is a 'cold remembrance' – something you remember having to do on a very cold day – or getting caught in a storm.

II) Read Galatians 2: 11 – 21 and then discuss the following questions:

This passage is not that easy to understand, but it contains an incident that happened between Peter and Paul. The debate continues between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians as to what laws or behaviors are necessary for salvation.

What do you think about Peter changing his mind, from eating and associating with Gentiles, to separating himself? Why did he do that? What pressure was he facing?

Can you think of any modern day examples where Christians have separated themselves from others because of who they are or what they believe?

What does Paul mean by his argument that he has died and now Christ lives in him? How does this change his attitudes toward others?

III) Close by sharing some areas you would like prayer for and then praying for each other one at a time. Lay hands on a knee or shoulder and pray for one of you. Then let the next person share and pray for them.

V

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am! Matt. 18:20

i) Getting to know you: Take turns answering the following question:

Today is Mardi Gras – or Fat Tuesday. It is traditionally the last day to feast before lent – when a time of fasting and reflection begins. What would be a difficult sacrifice for you to try fasting from in Lent.

ii) Read Galatians 3: 1-5 and then discuss the following questions:

What does the gift of Salvation mean to you in this life and in the afterlife?

How do you balance the two truths of being ‘saved by grace’ and ‘working out your salvation in fear and trembling? What effort is required on our part, if any?

What might be some of the benefits of fasting – or observing some other “law”? What are the dangers of such practices?

“Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you have heard?” How would you answer Paul’s question?

iii) Close by sharing some areas you would like prayer for and then praying for each other one at a time. Lay hands on a knee or shoulder and pray for one of you. Then let the next person share and pray for them

## VI

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am! Matt. 18:20

I) Getting to know you: Take turns answering the following:

Share about one friend that you really value and why they are important to you – what makes them a great friend.

II) Read Galatians 3: 6 – 14 and discuss the following:

What did Abraham believe?

What 'credit' did God give Abraham and what does that mean?

What is the basis of your faith?

I believe beyond a doubt that \_\_\_\_\_.

How might you also be caught by the law? Is there anything that you "DO" to feel saved?

Quote: Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness, we are told. What did Abraham believe that led God to declare or "reckon" him righteous? Was it that God had arranged payment for his sins? Not at all. The story makes it very clear that Abraham believed God was going to give him a male baby, an heir . . . He believed that God would interact with him now – just as those who later gathered around Jesus did. He even dared to ask God how could he know that the promise of a male heir would be fulfilled.

In the face of such faith, God declared Abraham to be righteous. Does that mean he declared he would go to heaven when he died? Not precisely that, but that Abraham's sins and failures would not cut him off from God in the present moment and in their on-going relationship in life together. . . They were friends!

f. What promise do you need to believe and claim?

III) Close by sharing some areas you would like prayer for and then praying for each other one at a time. Lay hands on a knee or shoulder and pray for one of you. Then let the next person share and pray for them.