



Group Program

Prayer, Study, Service, and Fellowship

by Colleen Wood



MEANINGFUL. COMPACT.

Time and energy is limited. Sometimes, even the important things, like planning for your next WMS meeting, are left until the last minute. At times, the business portions of our WMS meetings might be longer, leaving less time for program. I know, some of our WMS groups are small and have limited resources.

I hope, for times like these, you will find these four “mini-meetings” valuable! They have been prepared to require almost no planning and will hopefully be meaningful, yet compact. They are based around the WMS purpose statement so will also be a great reminder of what the WMS is all about!

In this edition of *Glad Tidings* we will look at study and fellowship. In the September October edition of *Glad Tidings*, look for another two short studies as we explore prayer and service.

Meeting 1: Study

Opening Prayer:

God of love, we thank you for your constant presence in our lives. Be with us in our time together.

We live in a time of confusion. When we read the paper or listen to the news, we are troubled. We live in world of unrest. Today, we consider the importance of study, discernment, and wisdom.

Open our minds and our hearts.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Hymn: #461 – Be thou my vision

Scripture: Proverbs 2:1–5 and Philippians 2:12–18

Read Together:

The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose, in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ, is to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service, and fellowship

Reflection: Lifelong Learning

I think sometimes, once we finish our formal education, we give a sigh of relief and think great—I am done with the studying, the tests, and the late nights. Yet, as we grow older, we quickly realize we are never done with learning. Acquiring knowledge is a lifelong pursuit.

Just like the education of our earlier life is a means to goal, so is the accumulation of long-term knowledge. When we study fractions in grade 4, we learn how to divide things equally. When we learn about biology in high school, we learn a little more about how our body works. If we study medicine in university, we hope to become a doctor, help people, and make a living. If we study auto mechanics in college, we hope to be able to fix an automobile, help those who are stranded on the roads, and find work.

So, what is our long-term goal in studying now? In our passage from Proverbs



we learn that we are to acquire wisdom and apply it. In Philippians, we are also told to apply the knowledge that Paul has been giving—to put it into practice. For us in the WMS, acquiring knowledge allows us to better be involved in local and world mission.

It is through our study that we continue to learn from God how we are to act—how to put our knowledge into practice. It is only in learning more about how God calls us to act that we can ultimately know God’s purpose for our life. When we study our scriptures, we learn what God is asking us to do, so that we can then act upon it.

We also learn about our work and this world. It is only in acquiring knowledge of the world that we know how to serve. Today, it is harder than ever to discern what is happening in the world. We may read the news headlines, but so often do not get a full overview of what is happening. That is where our study of the scripture and our times or prayer become essential to help us discern God’s will. All of us have limited resources to give of our time and money, so we all must study and discern where we will spend our time and money.

It is through our study, our actions, and our faith, that we begin to acquire wisdom. Those who have taken time to read a new book about a challenging topic, have traveled to visit a mission project, or have listened to a mission speaker, have expanded their wisdom. Those who have served at a drop-in, led worship at a senior’s home, or played games with a child at camp, have gained

The Value of Wisdom

Proverbs 2: 1–5

wisdom. Those who spend time in prayer and study of their scriptures are constantly gaining wisdom from our God.

I encourage you to find a reliable news source, to talk to wise leaders about what is happening in the world, to study your scriptures and pray, to connect with those from other communities, and to learn from those who have traveled and visited our mission projects and partners. Always keep learning

Offering:

The offering will now be received.

Offering Prayer:

Generous God, all that we have comes from you. As we share our offering, we pray that it be used to further your work in Canada and around the world. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Let us Pray:

God of Wisdom,

Give us the wisdom to know good from evil.

Give us the wisdom to be peacemakers in times of conflict.

Give us the wisdom to know when to speak and when to listen.

Give us the wisdom to make difficult decision.

Give us the wisdom to discern your path for our life.

Give us your wisdom as we speak out against injustices in our church, our country, and around the world.

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

We ask for wisdom for our leaders.

We ask you to be with the students within our church. We pray for our children that they will grow in their knowledge of you and your world. We pray for our youth that you will encourage them in their studies. We pray for those studying through internships, or at a college or university. Help them connect this knowledge to their life and their faith.

We ask for wisdom for ourselves that transforms us and guides us each and every day. We ask for discernment as we read the words of others. And, we ask that you will guide us in daily times of prayer and study.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



Optional Activity:

Bring a few copies of the newspaper to your meeting. Hand out a section or two to each member. Ask them to take five minutes to find an article that they would like to prayer about. After five minutes, have each member share their article. Invite the members to take the article home and pray for that situation over the next week.

Hymn: #626 – Lord of all power

Blessing:

Oh God of wisdom, as we leave today, grant us a desire to be a people striving to gain your wisdom. Amen.