

WEEK 6:DECLUTTER AND REGAIN FOCUS

CONTENT

DAY 1-SISTERHOOD AND
COMMUNITY

DAY 2-DECLUTTERING

DAY 3- A NEW PERSPECTIVE

DAY 4- OBEDIENCE

DAY 5- JESUS AT THE CENTER

A Wise Woman Builds Her Home

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DAY 1- SISTERHOOD AND COMMUNITY

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, ‘I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,’ that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, ‘I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,’ would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you.’ The head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you.’” 1 Corinthians 12:12-21

In writing this week’s study, I realised how heavy the topic of sisterhood and community is. It opens up many wounds of deception, frustration, loneliness, confusion and often times, hurt.

The women in the body of Christ have suffered in this area. Healthy friendships among women are often hard to find. Why do you think that is?

It’s simple; God intended for women to champion one another. Not only was community God’s idea, but it’s always been His heart for women to have a special and healthy bond. The enemy, as always, works hard to destroy the very thing that God uses to bring restoration and love to His people.

“No man is an island” - John Donne

If you have been around long enough, you would have seen how even creation and nature works together in a community. The ecosystem, photosynthesis or even the hydrologic cycle, mimic the idea of community in the way that they need each other in order to flourish. Water would not be able to evaporate without the sun. The animal kingdom depend on each other in order to survive. Trees and plants all need different elements from the earth and each other in order to survive. Everything plays a part.

When we shut out community, we shut out the very thing that God designed in order to show you love, and the abundance of life. Wisdom comes from learning and abiding in community.

The first mistake we make when we begin to heal from trauma is to think that we do not need people. It's easier to say that because, often, people are the cause of what hurt us in the first place.

The truth is; not everyone is for you, but don't make the mistake of thinking that you do not need people at all. God is not only able to restore, but He is able to give you an incredible community filled with love, grace and the accountability that you need in order to become the best version of yourself.

Become open to God's idea of community. He wants to give you a fresh start.

Prayer for community

Lord, I pray that Your hand will be on my community. Give me the discernment to know who is for me. Lead me to the right people, and help me feast in the wisdom that comes from being in a Holy Spirit-filled community. May You send me people who will help me, cover me and be there for me. Lord, help me to be the same for them. I pray that You will place me in a healthy community and healthy sisterhood for Your glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY 2- DECLUTTERING

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." John 15:1-6

With God renewing, restoring and re-aligning you, there is a need to declutter. As you pray for God to surround you with His people, there are some people that you need to let go of.

Remember how we learned about creation and nature mimicking God's intention for community? One of the most crucial parts of growth is shedding. Just like trees shed and let go of their leaves, it is time to make way for the new.

This does not have to be complicated because the Holy Spirit will guide you, however, it will require bravery and obedience. God will show you who you need to let go of. He will show you your circle, and His Holy Spirit will lead you.

We learned about the importance of knowing who is around you, and how that will directly affect the building of your home. There are some people that God does not intend for you to bring into your new season. Be brave enough to obey Him as He shows you who they are. Trust Him, and let them go.

Decluttering in this season will not only look like letting go of people, but you will also need to let go of the things that you have found comfort in and idolized. God needs to be your only hope, your only comfort and the only source of your identity. Anything else has got to go.

Remember, wisdom has a source. Receiving wisdom from the wrong sources will cause harm.

Prayer

Lord, help me to declutter. Open up my eyes to see, and give me the grace to obey Your Holy Spirit. Show me who and what I need to let go of as I step into my new season, and help me not to get distracted by any tactic of the enemy. In Jesus' Name. Amen

DAY 3- A NEW PERSPECTIVE

“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.” Luke 5:37-38

We have just a few days left of this devotional. I can feel that God has done so much restoration and reshaping in you. This is not the end. There is so much to learn. However, I firmly believe that the foundation is set and now it is time to build your home. God is giving you new strategy and a new perspective.

The old way of thinking will not work anymore. The old way of doing things will no longer produce any results. You are new, you have grown and you have a new partnership with God in this area. Look at you! Praise God!

Keep walking this path with intentionality and zeal. Keep the main thing, the main thing. Do not be afraid, your Father is holding your hand every step of the way, and the fruits of this season will speak for themselves. Your family is blessed. Your lineage is blessed. Your generation and generations to come are blessed. Heaven lives in your home and echos sounds of “Hallelujah! To God be the glory. Great things He has done.” Put on that worship music this week, God has given you new eyes to see and a new song to sing.

DAY 4- OBEDIENCE

“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.”

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Don't underestimate the power of your obedience.

DAY 5-JESUS AT THE CENTER

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22

When Jesus corrected and led people, He did so with love and in love. At the foundation of wisdom, we find the love of God. Not hatred, bitterness or the need to prove self-worth.

Keeping Jesus at the center of all things is making Him the cornerstone and foundation of all you build. This way, you know nothing will be shaken. Building with Jesus at the center means that your fundamentals are rooted and grounded within the gospel.