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**Guidelines for Preparing and Giving a Devotion**

**Purpose:** The devotional time each week is designed to help our women connect to Christ by giving them authentic snapshots of God’s work in the lives of others. Devotions should be inspiring and encouraging and should always point the PWOC body to God. The 1VP of Spiritual Life oversees devotions and will likely ask for a summary or preview of what you intend to share.

**Pray:** Ask the Lord to speak to your heart. What does He want ladies to KNOW at the end of the devotion? What is the intended outcome? Start from there and build your devotion backward. Remember that anything God speaks to you will always line up with Scripture. Check your message against the Word of God to make sure you are presenting truth in context.

**Timeframe:** Devotions should be about 5-7 minutes in length. Be sure to practice ahead of time to ensure you stay within this timeframe. You may wish to write out what you will say in full or use bullets to keep yourself on track. Avoid “winging it” as you will be likely to go overtime, and your message will not be as focused or effective. Choose ONE topic and stick to it!

**Content:** Content of devotions range from sharing a personal testimony to preparing a message related to the annual PWOC theme. Your 1VP will clarify her expectations. If there is flexibility, below are some ideas for topics—choose ONE**.** Stay on topic. Use appropriate Scripture.

* Share how God has specifically revealed Himself to you through His Word, prayer, your PWOC Bible study, or other people in a way that has impacted your life.
* Share a personal testimony—how you came to faith, how you were set free from something that had control over you, a personal encounter with Christ, etc.
* Share how you have trusted God in obedience in a way that has challenged or changed you.
* Share what God is teaching you right now and how He is doing that.
* Share how God has provided encouragement.
* Share a personal challenge and where you see God in the midst of it.
* Share what your PWOC theme means to you personally.
* Share an analogy from everyday life or illustrate a way that God works in our lives (i.e., use a gardening analogy for how God uproots things in our lives that are harmful).

**Make it memorable:** Use props and visuals, use stories, use anything that will help your peers absorb your words. Wear a costume. Engage their senses. Engage their imagination. Engage their own stories that may be similar to your story. Think about it: What messages do you remember from the past? Why do you remember them?

**Give it to God:** The day of your devotion, arrive early enough to touch base with the 1VP Spiritual Life and to pray with her. Once you are prepared and have practiced, give your devotion to God and ask Him to use it as He sees fit in the lives of your sisters in Christ. You do not need to be polished or professional. You just need to point others to God and trust His Spirit to do His good work in hearts. Take a deep breath and take courage—God is surely with you and will help you!

**My topic:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Devotion** **date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_