**The Culture of “Women in the Word”**

We come together for the purpose of studying the Word of God and growing in Christ together. We believe that every woman is valuable to God and we intentionally choose to establish a culture where:

**Women are loved and respected.**

We avoid cliques, welcome new ladies to our groups, and treat each other with honor, respect and courtesy.

**Relationships are very important**. Since we come from a broad range of backgrounds, and are at various stages of spiritual development, we make room for new opinions and points of view, and don’t criticize other people’s opinions or their churches. We do not give advice unless it is asked for.

**Each woman is encouraged to share, and her input is considered valuable.** Please monitor yourself, as to how much or how little you are sharing, so you do not monopolize the conversation at your table, but you do contribute something to the discussion. The vitality of the group depends on each member participating and contributing her thoughts and insights.

**Prayer for each other and the study of God’s Word are taken seriously**. We do our homework and come prepared. In case you did not get your homework done, come anyway and enjoy learning from others, but please don’t “wing it”. Just answer questions for which you prepared in advance. Please try to stay on target in your discussion of the homework. Also, please remember to pray for the other members of your small group throughout the week.

**Accountability is important.** Please make attending Women in the Word and your small group’s social gatherings a priority. Please call or text your small group shepherd to let her know if you are going to be late, or must be absent, or drop out of the group.

**Healthy boundaries are maintained**. Please come on time, keep confidences, and do not gossip or criticize others. Anything of a personal nature that is shared in your small group is to remain strictly confidential. Please help with responsibilities, such as putting away tables and chairs when necessary, or helping bring food, if your small group decides to have a meal or snacks.

Jesus is glorified when love, appreciation, affection, praise and encouragement are openly and generously expressed. Thank you for expressing your love and encouragement to the other ladies in your group and to all the volunteers who make Women in the Word possible.

Mahalo!