

The *Art of Womanhood* Sunflower

Art of Womanhood is represented by the sunflower. First, the sunflower follows the sun, or a higher source of light, as it travels across the sky. At the end of each day when the sun sets, the sunflower positions itself to anticipate the sunrise. It is always aligned with this higher source of light. We recognize that all truth comes from a higher source of truth and understanding. Like the sunflower, Art of Womanhood desires alignment with a higher source of light, and we encourage each woman in our organization to align her own life with her personal higher source of light.

The center of the sunflower is quite large, and in our model it represents the central role of truth seeking. The florets that grow within the center of the sunflower grow in a spiral. The center of the Art of Womanhood sunflower model contains a clear path for each woman to align herself with truth, and this path also moves in a spiral.

The journey begins when a woman discovers an idea that she believes to be true. First she researches and ponders the concept and compares it to her core classic, or the central book that defines her values. If she feels peace about the concept and believes that it is a true principle, she takes it to her husband to introduce his perspective and to align herself with his counsel. Finally, she seeks approval from her higher source of truth. This is a continual cycle. It sometimes feels repetitive, as over time the woman finds herself re-visiting the same concepts more than once. However, with each turn, the cycle spirals upward, just as the rows of florets in the center of the sunflower continue turning, and she learns and grows on higher levels of understanding.

The perimeter around the center of the sunflower represents the relationship of the husband, wife, and their higher source of truth. This unit is called the Family Executive Council, or FEC. A single woman's FEC is her relationship with her higher source of truth. The FEC is the crown of the sunflower; it is the most important component of our organization. This crown, which is a circle, is representative of the limits and bounds set upon the principles that are tested within the center of the sunflower. Women are encouraged not to proceed further towards the outside of the flower until they are aligned with their FEC's. Everything we do and learn in our organization should be measured against what our individual FEC's believe to be right and true. The truth we receive there is what gives life to our organization.

The five first-layer petals in our model represent the ways in which Art of Womanhood supports women who are seeking to understand and apply true principles of womanhood.

1. Education
2. Inherent Roles
3. Unique Gifts
4. Harmony
5. Mentoring

A sunflower has many layers of petals, and in our sunflower model there are many supporting petals beneath each of the original five.

Petals Supporting Education: We further our educations by studying the classics, engaging in simulations, having field experiences, working with mentors, taking oral exams, and writing.

Petals Supporting Inherent Roles: We define our inherent roles through our study of core classics and womanhood classics and our participation in study circles.

Petals Supporting Unique Gifts: We discover our unique gifts as we study and communicate with our higher source of truth. We then enhance these gifts through mentor encouragement and Art of Womanhood assignments.

Petals Supporting Harmony: We identify our individual strengths and powerfully combine them. We rejoice in our differences. We choose to cooperate with other women as well as with men, combining our strengths and differences to create a powerful organization to strengthen the traditional family. We connect with other family-oriented organizations to support each organization's mission.

Petals Supporting Mentoring: Women mentor women through Art of Womanhood study circles, lectures, and mentor meetings.

Without having each of these petals connected and in line with the beliefs and approval of the FEC, the petals will not thrive. They will wilt. The life of the petals are sustained by the alignment of the woman, her husband, and their higher source of truth