

A LADY IN
Waiting



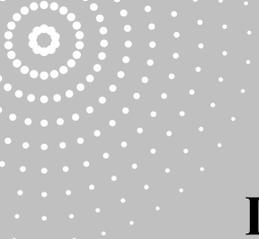
Takisha Bromell

C O M P A N I O N
G U I D E

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INTRODUCTION

While the phrase “lady in waiting” implies a single woman waiting for marriage, the introduction makes clear that we all go through various seasons of waiting.

Waiting, from our perspective, seems to be a time when nothing is happening at all. However, the example Takisha presents of Jesus’ response to John about his wait for the Messiah highlights that God’s perspective is not at all like ours in the midst of our waiting.

Consider these questions as you think back about the seasons of waiting in your life.

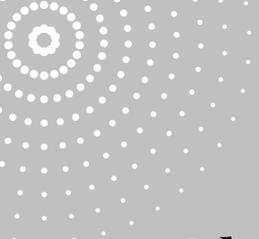
1. What are the ways you have been “in waiting” throughout your life?
 2. What may have caused John to doubt as he waited for the revolution to begin?
 3. How did Jesus’ response to John reveal the difference between God’s perspective and ours?
 4. What does a “day of reckoning” bring about in our lives?
 5. What do the verses on the bottom of page 23 reveal to you about yourself and about Jesus?
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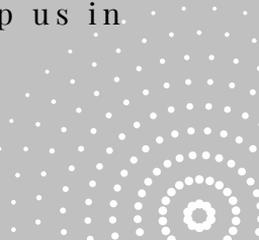
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Chapter 1: Enduring the Process

In this chapter, Takisha introduces the idea that waiting, while seemingly uneventful, includes an important process. It's in the waiting that God gets our attention and begins to work on deep issues in our hearts and minds. It's when He gets our attention through the wait, the struggle, or the lesson we are learning that He cares for us as His children by giving us His mind and by changing our hearts. Because God is not in a hurry, patience is a critical part of this process. And, ultimately, it requires us to trust God's timing and His purpose in our lives.

1. What process does God take us through during the waiting season?
 2. Read James 1:3-4. How does God use patience in our lives?
 3. How have you tried to “complete” yourself with things besides God?
 4. Explain the paradox of being complete in Christ (Col. 2: 9-10) and still seeing our imperfection.
 5. How can meditating on the truth that He has made us complete in Christ help us in the midst of the awareness of our imperfection?
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Chapter 2: Hollow Ground

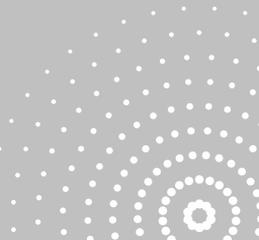
We all have moments or seasons of feeling that hollow ground beneath our feet. That feeling that the ground is about to give can present itself in the form of lies we believe about God, His faithfulness towards us, or His love for us. It can also come from believe lies about ourselves, our worth, or our identity in Christ. Whatever the cause of the hollow ground, the cure is the same: the Word of God planted and watered in our hearts.

1. Reflect on times in your life when you were standing on “hollow ground,” ready to give up. What lie had you believed? Explain.

- a. “I am worthless.”
- b. “God doesn’t love me.”
- c. “God has forgotten me.”
- d. “God can’t meet my needs.”
- e. “God has abandoned me.”
- f. Other: _____

2. Read Isaiah 25: 8. How can the truth of scripture help you fight the lies of the enemy?

3. Read Jeremiah 29: 11-17. What truth expressed in these verses can strengthen and encourage you in the “dark night” of your soul?



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Chapter 3: My Ishmael

So often, doing “something” feels much better than waiting on God, His timing, and His outcome. In our attempt to “help God out,” usually as a result of our own impatience and dissatisfaction, we can so easily create an Ishmael. And in doing so, we disobey God and fashion for ourselves a whole host of other problems. At the end of the day, the creation of Ishmael is a result of not trusting God.

1. We all have Ishmaels that we’ve produced in an effort to fulfill what we believe to be a promise from God. What is your Ishmael?
2. What void were you seeking to fill?
3. What fruit did your Ishmael bear in your life? How did your Ishmael backfire?

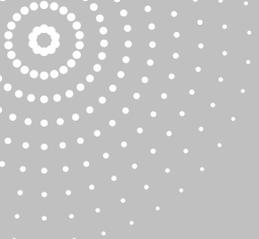


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Chapter 4: The Counterfeit

You may have heard the saying that “the good is the enemy of the best.” That saying can easily describe the problem with the Counterfeit. Whether it’s a counterfeit relationship, a counterfeit job, or a counterfeit cause or purpose, it distracts from God’s true relationship, job, cause, and purpose. The deception of that can be a bitter pill to swallow because it “appears” to be a good and right thing.

1. A counterfeit can be a relationship, cause, job, or purpose. Can you think of a “counterfeit” in your own life?
2. How did the counterfeit appeal to you, or draw you in?
3. How did it drain you?
4. Read Romans 12: 1-2. What are some practical ways to present your mind and body to God?



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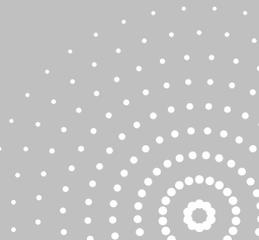




Chapter 5: The Bait

Takisha's desire for companionship was her bait. You might say, "What's wrong with companionship?" Nothing. Absolutely nothing. What makes it bait is our willingness to compromise God's word and His ways to meet that desire.

As you consider "baits" in your own life, keep in mind that wanting God's promises fulfilled in our lives is a godly desire; being willing to disobey His word, dishonor Him or ourselves in order to get that desire fulfilled becomes the target of the "bait."

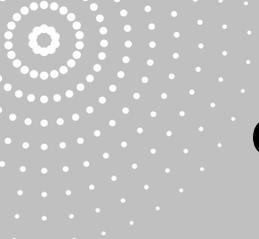
1. What "bait" has enticed you in your season of waiting?
 2. How did you respond to the enticement?
 3. Read Psalm 37: 7-9 and Isaiah 40: 28-31. What truths in these verses encourage you and strengthen you as you resist the bait?
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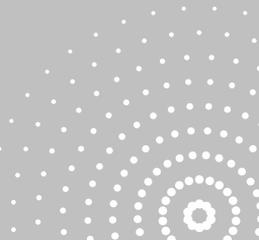




Chapter 6: The Preparation

So many times when we think we are just speaking the truth about our circumstances, we are actually speaking negatively and out of a broken heart. We speak from our limited human perspective on what our eyes can see. We may say that we are just calling it as we see it, but in doing so, we fail to use the true filter of God's word to understand the events of our lives.

Scripture is clear that faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1) Part of the process of gaining the "mind of Christ" is to align our thoughts and our words with His word. This is the process, the preparation, and the means by which we participate in His purpose in our lives.

1. What have you thought and said regarding your waiting season?
 2. Are those thoughts and words consistent with the word of God? If not, how?
 3. Do you have a daily routine that includes reading, meditating, and praying God's word? If not, how can you work that into your routine and make it a priority in your life?
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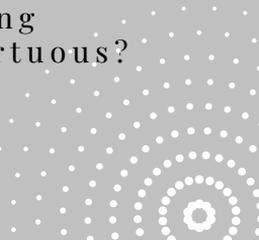




Chapter 7: The Current State of Affairs

“Virtue is nothing but voluntary obedience to the truth.” -Webster’s Dictionary, 1828
In this chapter, Takisha takes a closer look at virtue in the context of relationships. She considers her various relationships in the light of very specific examples and synonyms for virtue. When she does, the fog clears. Virtue stands out far above the Ishmaels, the counterfeits, and the bait.

The lens of scripture sheds light, demystifies relationships, exposes counterfeits, and identifies integrity, goodness, nobility, strength, and dignity.

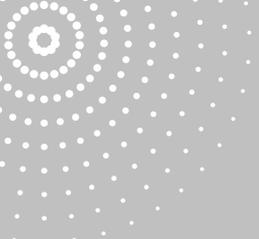
1. Have you found yourself entangled—either in your heart or in a relationship—with a man who is not virtuous?
 2. How do you feel when you are with him?
 3. How do you feel when you are in the presence of a virtuous man, like Boaz (even if you are not in a relationship with that man)?
 4. Read 2 Corinthians 6: 14 and Proverbs 13: 20. What practical actions can you take to guard your heart against becoming entangled with a man who is not virtuous?
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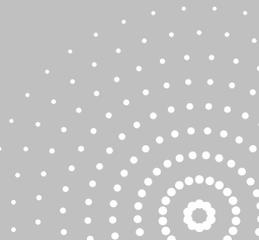




Chapter 8: 10,000 Whys of Waiting

While there may be many whys of waiting, Takisha focuses on the need to align our thoughts about ourselves to God's word. We live in a world that continually sends us messages about not measuring up to the edited, photoshopped, computer-generated images and lifestyles that bombard us. We fall prey to the poison of comparing ourselves and deeming ourselves unworthy.

Rather than set our eyes on false images, we are called by God to set our minds on Him and on His word. What we seek ought to be His kingdom and His standards, not the worlds and not our own.

1. Read the verses on page 98. List what God says about you.
 2. Do you believe all these truths?
 3. Take time daily to meditate on these verses, especially the ones that are harder for you to believe right now.
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Chapter 9: My Secret Garden with the Lord

What Takisha discovered in her secret garden with the Lord was surrender. It is in surrender to God, to His will, to His plan that we find true freedom. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego provide a beautiful example of children of God who trust Him above their circumstances, even above their own lives. We know the end of their story. God not only saved their lives but there wasn't even the smell of smoke on them.

Will we allow God to change our hearts so that we can say, "...even if He does not (save us)...we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up?" Or, maybe we might say, "Even if I don't get the desire of my heart, I will trust and follow Jesus." It is in that type of surrender that we find His peace and freedom.

1. Read Jeremiah 29:11. Do you struggle to believe that God's plans for you are for good and not for disaster?
2. Is there some hope, plan, person, or desire that you are clinging to?
3. How can the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego encourage you to surrender all things to God?

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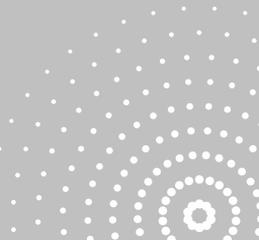
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Epilogue: Live 10!

Let's not get stuck in our waiting season! Even as we wait on God for promises fulfilled, He has called us to occupy (get busy) until He comes. He has a purpose for every one of us and it is not dependent on our season in life. In the midst of our waiting, we must continue to live and embrace all that God has for us in the present. Don't let the waiting stop you from doing it!

1. What desires has God placed in your heart?
 2. Write down the visions and desires that you believe He has called you to.
 3. Read Matthew 6: 33. How can you begin fulfilling God's purpose for your life right now? Write out practical ways you can begin this week.
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About Takisha Bromell



Originally from South Carolina, Ms. Bromell came to Murfreesboro, Tennessee to maximize opportunities that would best utilize her strengths in project management while merging and expanding her love to guide others in discovering their purpose. Takisha's faith and values, coupled with her savvy business sense, truly fuel her passion for helping others develop their strengths and optimize their potential. She is authentic and shares from a place of truth and grit, captivating audience members and taking them on a journey through personal stories and life lessons she has learned along the way.

Her warm and honest approach is inviting, allowing her to connect with people wherever she goes.

**For more information, or to book Takisha for a speaking engagement,
please visit: www.takishabromell.com**