

# Flourishing in the Season of Waiting

## Filling Time In the Waiting

I have been in doctor's waiting rooms more in the last 6 months than ever in my life, thanks to twice a week allergy shots. I check-in and then I wait to be called; since I don't actually have to have an appointment for my injection, sometimes they can get me in right away, and other times they are quite busy and I wait a little longer. That isn't so bad, but after the injection then I have to wait 15 more minutes to make sure I don't have a bad reaction. Once a month, when they start a new vial, they have to do a skin test and wait for 15 minutes, and then if there is no serious reaction, they give me the injection and wait another 15 minutes.

I quickly learned that stewing in the waiting room doesn't make time go faster — no matter how many times I look at my watch. I could play on my phone, scroll Facebook, but that got boring quite quickly. I needed to make better use of my time in the waiting. I didn't want to just kill my time in the waiting, I wanted to fill my time in the waiting.

I learned to **PAUSE** in the waiting. After checking in, I would sit in the chair (they remodeled during this 6 month process and I have to admit the new chairs they got 2 months into my journey were much more comfortable), and close my eyes and simply breathe and relax. I would disconnect from my to-do-list and simply be.

I often used this time to **PRAY**. As I waited, I prayed for those who came to my mind. If I scrolled Facebook, those who popped up in my feed, became who I prayed for.

I took time to **PONDER** God's Word. During the 15 minutes after my shot, I would listen to a Bible teaching podcast, or read the day's devotional on my Bible App.

I used the time for **PRAISE**. Now, I couldn't sing out loud in the waiting room, but I could listen to praise music, and allow my heart to be filled with praises to God.

There are times in our spiritual lives as well, when God is going to ask us to wait. We may be waiting for an answer to prayer, the repair of a relationship, waiting for tests results.... Whatever God asks us to wait for, we can fuss and fret, and get frustrated that time isn't going fast enough, or we can make the most of or waiting. May we be women who ...

Pause—*Be still and know that I am God ... (Psalm 46:10a).*

Pray—*Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray (Psalm 5:2).*

Ponder—*...I will ponder your statutes (Psalm 119:95b).*

Praise—*I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me (Psalm 13:6).*



## Inside this issue

Conversation Starters.....	2
Additional Resources.....	2
Waiting Prayer.....	2
Monthly Bible Reading .....	3
Ideas from the Territory .....	3
8 Things to Do in the Wait..	4
Fun Ideas for July.....	4

## Territorial Women's Ministries Department

**Commissioner Colleen Riley—**  
Territorial President  
of Women's Ministries

**Colonel Genevera Vincent—**  
Territorial Secretary  
for Women's Ministries

**Major Beth Desplancke—**  
Territorial Women's Ministries  
Program Secretary



## Flourishing in Relationships: Conversation Starters

Gather some friends for coffee, or enjoy the nice summer weather. Use these questions to help get the conversation started.

- ◆ What is your favorite summer memory?
- ◆ What's the most refreshing thing to do on a hot summer day?
- ◆ What's the best summer vacation you ever had?
- ◆ What's the best fireworks display you've seen on the 4th of July?
- ◆ How do you respond to waiting in a grocery story line, drive through, or at the doctor's office?
- ◆ When God seems slow to answer your prayers, how do you respond?
- ◆ Looking back, when did God have you in a waiting period (where His timing didn't match yours) but afterwards you realized the waiting was worth it?
- ◆ What lessons has God taught you in seasons of waiting?
- ◆ What verse do you find comforting when God asks you to wait?

***"Nothing is lost in the waiting process—because waiting is a growth process."***

Ann Voskamp

### Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you flourish in the waiting season.

<https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *Acknowledging God's Sovereignty*

Devotional: *Flourishing in the Waiting*

Craft Idea: *Photo Collage Letters*

Flourishing Story: Ashley Mitchell from the Chico, CA Corps shares her testimony of *Flourishing in the Waiting*.

## Waiting Prayer

**Waiting! Yes, patiently waiting!  
Till next steps made plain will be;  
To hear, with the inner hearing,  
The Voice that will call to me.**

**Waiting! Yes hopefully waiting!  
With hope that need not grow dim;  
The Master is pledge to guide me,  
And my eyes are unto Him.**

**Waiting! Expectantly waiting!  
Perhaps it may be today  
The Master will quickly open  
The gate to my future way.**

**Waiting! Yes, waiting! Still waiting!  
I know, though I've waited long,  
That, while He withholds His purpose,  
His waiting cannot be wrong.**

**Waiting! Yes waiting! Still waiting!  
The Master will not be late:  
Since He knows that I am waiting  
For Him to unlatch the gate.**

J. Danson Smith



*Spend your season of waiting in God's Word!*

## Flourishing in the Word

God's people have always been called to seasons of waiting. Spend the month of July reading about Bible characters in the book of Genesis, and how each one of them had to wait. What lessons can you learn from them?

July 1	Genesis 2:4-25	July 17	Genesis 25:19-34
July 2	Genesis 3:1-24	July 18	Genesis 29:1-30
July 3	Genesis 4:1-26	July 19	Genesis 37:1-36
July 4	Genesis 5:1-32	July 20	Genesis 39:1-23
July 5	Genesis 6:1-22	July 21	Genesis 40:1-23
July 6	Genesis 7:1-24	July 22	Genesis 41:1-57
July 7	Genesis 8:1-22	July 23	Genesis 42:1-38
July 8	Genesis 9:1-28	July 24	Genesis 43:1-34
July 9	Genesis 11:27-12:20	July 25	Genesis 44:1-34
July 10	Genesis 15:1-20	July 26	Genesis 45:1-28
July 11	Genesis 16:1-16	July 27	Genesis 46:1-33
July 12	Genesis 17:1-27	July 28	Genesis 47:1-31
July 13	Genesis 18:1-15	July 29	Genesis 48:1-22
July 14	Genesis 21:1-21	July 30	Genesis 49:1-28
July 15	Genesis 24:1-27	July 31	Genesis 49:29-50:26
July 16	Genesis 24:28-67		

### Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

**Auburn, CA** made 300 valentines for veterans, filled hundreds of eggs and goodie bags for fire victims in their community, and made blankets for the homeless.

**Bullhead City/Laughlin, AZ** have made changes to their program in order to attract new people. They call it "Tuesday Connections" and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday is Bible Study and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday is Women's and Men's ministries. When there is a 5th Tuesday, they are having a movie and popcorn day.

**Centralia, WA** made candy bouquets for their sweethearts in honor of Valentine's Day.

**Helena, MT** held a sock drive for Youth Dynamics (a group home for high-risk youth). The Home League collected 191 pairs of socks.

**Hobbs, NM** put together snack bags for the seniors who come for food boxes, as well as for those who come in and use their hygiene station.

**Roseville, CA** started a women's walking group. They didn't feel comfortable walking outdoors, so they gather at the local mall and walk together.

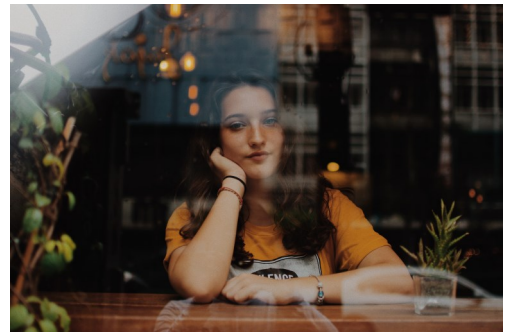
**Tacoma, WA** held their 2nd Annual WM Tea Party and Purse Auction, with the theme "Mad Hatter Tea Party."

**Tri-Cities, CA** started a new program, "Walking and Talking." They women meet together once a week and share their lives, faith and family issues as they walk.

## 8 Things to Do When God Says, “Wait”

When God says we are to “wait,” author Chuck Lawless, suggests eight things we can do.

1. **Forget about the calendar.** God doesn’t operate by our time, schedule or calendar.
2. **Embrace the truth that God has a reason.** Whatever He has on the other side of the wait is better than what we might get through our impatience.
3. **Remember that God ‘s not worried.** His timing is always right.
4. **Be faithful today.** Trusting God for tomorrow means being obedient today.
5. **Spend some time studying God’s Word about waiting.** *Check out this month’s Bible reading plan on page 3 for Scripture to study.*
6. **Invite someone else into your wait.** Having someone who can share your burden can be hopeful.
7. **Tell somebody your testimony.** When you tell your story, you’ll remember that God has always taken care of you in the past, and He’s taking care of you now.
8. **Keep praying.** The waiting time is not the time to stop talking to God.



<https://chucklawless.com/2018/01/8-things-to-do-when-god-says-wait/>

---

***Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14***

---



### Flourishing Fun in July

1. Attend an outdoor concert.
2. Be a tourist in your own city.
3. Celebrate the 4th of July.
4. Grow an herb garden.
5. Have a water balloon fight.
6. Have a picnic.
7. Pick Strawberries or some other kind of summer fruit.
8. Play in the sprinkler!
9. Take a road trip.
10. Watch the sunset.