

DEVOTIONAL

WEEK FOUR

There's more in store

by: Lori-Ann Dinnall



STARTING OVER
when it's time to let go, and let God

Like most little girls, I grew up obsessed with wanting to one day get married and have children. I thought that being a wife and mother were the best jobs in the world and I couldn't wait until I could become one. I eventually got married in my mid-thirties and was eager to start a family with my husband. However, getting pregnant took years. And even when it finally happened, we suffered two back-to-back miscarriages that left us shattered.

It was in my season of mourning the loss of my children and the picture of what could have been, when I had some of my most intriguing conversations with God to date. Most of us, do not wade through the waters of grief without some serious questions for our Father who seemingly allowed such terrible pain to touch our lives. I learned from King David that I could bring my anger, my frustration, my disappointment, my tears and my fears to God and He wouldn't turn me away. So that's exactly what I did. I kept the conversation with Him going, even when it hurt.

My husband and I talked about exploring the possibilities of medical intervention or adoption, but those routes ultimately did not feel like something we were willing to pursue. This left me with the very plausible reality that biological motherhood may be something I will not get to experience. The mere thought of such an outcome, once brought me such anxiety that I could feel my chest tightening in defiance. I couldn't fathom such an existence... or so I thought.

Somewhere along the way, in my walks and talks with God, I started to look at things differently. He brought to my remembrance the passage from Romans 12:2 (NKJV) that says "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God". I know that we normally look at this scripture and automatically relate it to fleeing worldly cultural practices but I saw it with fresh eyes and found a new application for myself. It was impressed upon my heart that as I continued to renew my mind – challenging society's notions of motherhood, reminding myself of what God thought of me, His plans for me, His love for me – that my new way of thinking would help me to properly discern what His will is for me.

When it says that His will is good, perfect and acceptable, that got me thinking that whatever it is that God has in store for me as it relates to my life, He has already covered all the angles. He has assured me that it is going to be good and we already know that He is the giver of every great gift. He has told me that it is going to be perfect, meaning that it is a complete plan where He has already worked out every detail and left nothing to chance. And lastly, that it will be acceptable. That means that whatever the future holds for me, it is going to be agreeable to my soul. God isn't giving me a lack luster, pales-in-comparison, Plan B kind of life. Whatever it is, whether or not children are in that picture, it is going to be a masterpiece.

When I came to that place of total surrender of my wants, hopes and desires for my future and gave them all to God, an indescribable peace permeated my heart. It was if I was echoing the words of the writer of Psalm 31:15a (TPT) who said "my life, my every moment, my destiny—it's all in your hands". I was no longer preoccupied with how the clock

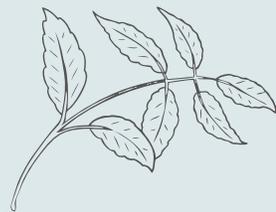
land my body seemed to be working against me; I had found a place where I could park in contentment and rest in the fact that my times and seasons belong to Him. When I did this, I began to see all of the opportunities that were around me to be a caregiver and nurturer to the children in my life. I am blessed to be a stepmother to 3 incredible adults and a step-grandmother to 5 adorable little ones. I am an aunt and a godmother and I have many friends with children of various ages. The Lord began to show me that I could take steps to be a more present role model in the lives of these precious little ones, not as some sort of substitute for motherhood, but as a way of giving them the love and tenderness that I had inside. Those qualities that I was desirous to use for my own children, did not need to wilt within me, but could still be used for God's glory. He led me to start a mentorship program for young women as a way of pouring into the next generation and as I led these ladies, I found a satisfaction that I never knew was possible.

Perhaps the thing you've been waiting on God for isn't children but it is something else that is very near to your heart. You have prayed, cried and waited and still haven't seen the manifestation. I want to encourage you today my friend to know that we serve a God who wants to carry out His purpose in your life and He is well able to exceed your expectations and do superabundantly more than anything you could ever dare to ask or think. Ephesians 3:20 (AMP) says that He wants to go beyond your greatest prayers, hopes and dreams according to His power that is at work within you. Yes, this is the part where we give Him everything; the precious, sacred, grandiose things we want for ourselves and we say "Daddy, not my will, but yours be done". This sounds terrifying, but it is also exhilarating if we truly trust that He wants what is best for us. Know that He has already put His power within us to bring His will to pass in our lives.

Are you willing today to trade your dreams in for His? What if the things that He has in store for you are so much greater than what you had envisioned for yourself? Are you willing to let go of the life that you imagined for yourself to embrace the beautiful destiny He has crafted just for you?

I dare you today. Take a leap of faith and trust God with the timeline of your life.

He has so much more in store for you



Do you need Prayer?
Connect with us through our prayer team at
pray@springvale.org

Or reach out to our women's ministry team at
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This week's speaker:
Lori-Ann Dinnall

