

Faith in the Waiting Room

Intro and Sermon

Thank you, James. As he said, my name is Crystal Oglesby. I am married to Dilan Oglesby. We met working at a summer camp together and according to him I played “hard to get” all summer but somehow he won me over. After spending the summer together we spent the next two years in a long distance relationship until we decided Kansas was the best options for us. We got married in 2017 and never stopped adventuring since - some by choice and some not so much. We recently had our daughter, Haven in December and in true Oglesby fashion she’s kept us busy ever since. I am currently an Academic Advisor at K-State, but before that I taught Middle School English for 7 years. In our spare time, we like to be outside, specifically boating and camping when possible.

As much as we love outdoors, Dilan and I have found out that we have terrible luck with camping - something always weather related always happens. Tornadoes, crazy storms, insane heat, you name it - if it's happening we're probably camping. At this point it's just become expected and honestly comical. Next time you see the Geldarts, ask them about their boating and camping experience with us. I've done a little back tracking and I'm convinced our bad luck started in August of 2021. Dilan and I struck out to Milford Lake for a weekend of tent camping. There was a storm forecasted, but we thought we could make it or that we would luck out and it would go around us.

We found the perfect spot for tent camping, an edge spot right on the lake that had plenty of room for our dog to roam. We pulled in with the carefully packed car and boat ready to set up for the weekend. My Type A self had created a packing list, meal list, all the things to make the weekend the best it could be. As we pulled into the campsite, the sky looked ominous - like the type of ominous that Kansans know means there's a serious storm coming. We took a bit to decide what to do, and Dilan was adamant that we go ahead and set up as much as we can before the storm hits. I didn't feel super excited about this, tried to remind the Georgia boy what Kansas storms can have in store, but in the end I went along with his plan. As we set up there was a wall of rain that we could see come across the lake, it came closer. And closer. And closer. And all of a sudden it was on us - we were drenched instantly. I was sprinting to the car with the dog and supplies that couldn't get wet and Dilan was frantically trying to tie down the tents.



As the storm trampled our campground, we sat in the car watching the wind and rain destroy the supplies we had so carefully packed and realized the weekend was not going to turn out the way we expected. I'm convinced to this day that this experience is why our dog has storm anxiety.

I would like to tell you that this 30 minutes of waiting taught me all I needed to know about how to wait well. Quite the opposite actually, it was the perfect storm to remind me just how terrible I was with ruined plans and waiting. We sat there watching the plan we had made get demolished and there was nothing I could do about it. I was bitter, frustrated, maybe a little bit of "I told you so" running through my mind. It was the opposite of waiting well. I wish I could tell you that I learned my lesson and I was a professional waiter, but I was still terrible and despised it with a passion.

SERMON: I wish the storms in life were always like the one that came across Milford - easy to see so you have time to prepare, you have warnings to alert you, and it's short lived. But in reality, life isn't like that all the time. We often ignore the warning signs or have no warning signs at all and are blindsided by opportunities that end with us in the waiting and easily find ourselves struggling with the uncertainties of the season.

Pray

Before we dive in, I want to give you an overview of what this morning's time will look like. In today's sermon would give you the magic secret to never have to wait gruelingly again, but there's no magic ingredient. Waiting is something we are called to do and is a part of life. Since we will continually encounter these opportunities - big or small - my goal here is to give you stepping stones on where to start when you find yourself in one of life's many waiting rooms. In order to do this, I am going to journey us through a few stories of waiting, Joseph's and mine. At the end of each parallel, I'll have a few reflection questions, so if you haven't gotten a sermon note page feel free to grab one now.

One reason for our camping trip was to take space away from reality for a bit. We were in the beginning of our most recent season of waiting and wanted to take a weekend to regroup and fight for joy in the season. We were still healing from our miscarriage and I was healing from thyroid cancer surgery and radioactive iodine treatment. My body was exhausted and so was my mind. But there was an "end" to our waiting season to look forward to - only 8 months

away. I was already planning on what could be, placing hope in my own timeline. I didn't think much of the opportunities that could come in the waiting, I just kept going as if nothing was really changed, but a lot had. We had lost a child, I had lost a vital organ, and our lives looked vastly different than we imagined. But I kept on keeping on, because if I faced it, it would become more real. Little did we know just how long that season would go and how much practice we would get learning to **wait** a little more effectively. The one year wait we thought we would have quickly turned into two, then three, then four. In the waiting I found myself vastly underprepared to endure the length of this season. I was in a cycle of depression, anger, and honestly just numb to many things that were happening around me. I had the mindset that the waiting was the worst experience I had had to date and I was full of anger for why these things were happening to me. I didn't have the tools to cope well and so I dug into my work and further created my identity through that. I allowed my anxiety to take hold and found myself going through the motions more and more with every setback. I started building up walls and trying to convince myself and others that I was fine. **I had one goal in mind for this waiting - I was waiting to have a child.** I thought this was the one thing that could solve all of my 'problems.' Once we got pregnant, I wouldn't be anxious anymore, I wouldn't feel sad when people announced they were pregnant, I wouldn't feel so exhausted all the time or angry, I wouldn't have to feel distant from God anymore. I know now how wild this thought process was - because jokes on me, I'm still exhausted.

As silly as this thought process was, that is where I found myself and anything that derailed that plan devastated me. I was waiting with a one track mind, putting my hope in one thing, but not opening my mind to seeking the other opportunities that could help **heal me in the waiting.**

Our society doesn't make waiting easy, or maybe it makes it too easy because we don't have to do it. And when we do, things are put in place to make it as unnoticeable as possible. Information is at our fingertips, we have self check out instead of waiting for the line at the grocery store, you can buy TSA precheck to bypass the long lines, Disney even has created their lines to be as unnoticeable as possible so it doesn't feel uncomfortable to wait. Despite the way the world has shifted, we are still called to wait. God's word offers many insights into waiting and how those opportunities can still lead to the promises that God has for us. We see

- Sarah and Abraham waiting for the promise of a child
- David waiting for his Kingship
- Hannah waiting for her son Samuel
- Moses waiting on Mount Sinai
- Joseph waiting for his dreams and reunion to his family
- and even Jesus himself waiting.

But still, with all these examples of people who have done it before us, I still found myself in a place of anger when I was called to do it in my own life. Waiting in itself is grueling, but not

waiting well can make this season even more daunting and push us to forget where our hope lies. Waiting has beautiful opportunities to deepen your faith and open your eyes to the endless possibilities God has for your life - often so much more beautiful ones than you could create yourself.

The example of keeping faith in the waiting I want to focus on this morning is Joseph. You can read his story in the entirety in Genesis 37-50, but to give you a little context this is where we see Joseph taken from his home by his brothers, thrown in a pit, sold into slavery, falsely accused and imprisoned just to start the story. During these 13 years of waiting for his dreams to become reality Joseph used the opportunities to wait well. His story gives us insight into what this could look like in our own lives.

We'll start in Genesis 37:5-9, 18-20. I'll be using the ESV version for today's scriptures.

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves (a bundle of grain stalks tied together) in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. ⁹ Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."... ¹⁸ They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits.^[b] Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."

- Now my story is much different than Joseph's, but there are some similarities that tie together what it could look like to wait well. My pit wasn't dug in the ground in the desert, but in the daily ins and outs of a doctor's office. Starting with our miscarriage, I found myself frequently in a waiting room both literally and figuratively. We found out we were pregnant very early on and being our first pregnancy we had no reason to think things would go wrong. The start of my 7th week I began feeling off and bleeding, as the week continued I got the confirmation from the doctor that I was in the process of losing our first child.
- Up until this point in my life I had found my identity in performing and doing things. Much like Effie talked about last week, I would get a rush from checking off the boxes on a to do list. I would lesson plan, grade, do housework, and just find things to keep myself busy. I went nonstop, but was truly missing out on the joys in life that I didn't have time to see. **This was the first time that busyness couldn't mask the anguish that was flowing through my body.** I found myself yearning for answers, crying out to God both literally and through journaling and prayer - trying to learn why he had allowed this. This began the season that would push me to dig into the big questions that I never thought about having to answer or honestly never made time to consider. **What has your pit looked like or looks like now? What anguish is your busyness not masking?**

Looking back at Joseph's story we start in Genesis Chapter 39:1-6. Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an

Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

- Shortly after my miscarriage, I found myself in a new waiting room - my primary care. I wanted to get a full check up before we starting trying to grow our family again. We had gotten the all clear from the OBGYN but I was trying to do anything in my power from having to feel that anguish again. During this physical the PA felt a lump in my neck, that finding led to an ultrasound, and then a biopsy because it was abnormal. Two days after the biopsy, I got a phone call from the doctor asking me to come in ASAP. When that happens, you know it's not good. I can't tell you the conversation we had in that office, but I can remember the feeling walking out of that waiting room. The feeling that nothing would ever be the same and the one thing I was working towards of having a child was once again put on hold.
- Shortly after this appointment, I had my first surgery and treatment. Between entering the surgical center alone and having the nuclear medicine tech leave the room before I could open the lead container that contained my radioactive pills, I had never felt so alone. No one I knew was going through this or had gone through this and everyone's life seemed to be continuing to move forward while mine was taking an emotional detour. I was angry that at 25 I had had to live more life than I would wish on anyone. I started to retreat to my old ways of coping because it was easier to do that than push into new habits and coping mechanisms. **What details do you remember from your waiting room? How has God shown favor in your waiting?**

Transition back into Joseph's story...

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" ¹⁰And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

¹¹But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. ¹³And as soon as she saw that he had

left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house,¹⁴ she called to the men of her household and said to them, “See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.¹⁵ And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.”¹⁶ Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home,¹⁷ and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me.¹⁸ But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.”

¹⁹As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled.²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

40 Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.² And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,³ and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.⁴ The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

⁵And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation.

⁶When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled.⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, “Why are your faces downcast today?”⁸ They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”

- In May of 2022 four months after my second surgery, I had a couple of scans scheduled to look closer at spots that showed up on a PET scan. I remember pestering the doctors to get this scheduled as soon as possible because I was still trying to create my own timeline and move things along. A few days after the first scan, I was at school and got a phone call from a nurse at the Endocrinologist office. She shared that nothing showed up on the scan. I had to have her repeat herself at least once if not twice. I had all but convinced myself that something would still be hiding in my neck. We celebrated that night with wine at Life Group, called our families, and were on cloud nine. That was our go ahead to move on with our life - we went from being stuck to living in a flash.

- The second scan I had a week later was to also check for residual cancer - I tried to not get my hopes up, but man the idea of being cancer free took hold quick. After this scan, the results came back opposite of the other - cancer was still there growing in my neck. Life was once again on hold just as quick as we thought we could live again. I'm not sure if this was my lowest point or maybe it was the moment that my 3rd surgery was pushed another six months, but they both were key moments in this season that opened unexpected opportunities to reframe the setback.
- We see Joseph do this as he works on honing in his skills of interpreting dreams despite the waiting, and it was in this season between surgery two and surgery three that I really began to dig into the opportunities that were in the waiting. One opportunity that happened in year two of my waiting, an opportunity to begin co-leading a women's group came about. I felt vastly underprepared and honestly a little imposterish. What advice and support could I give others when I myself was broken and shattered? I prayed, and contemplated, and got feedback from others and finally mustered up the courage to text the person that would become my co-leader and start the process. I could have easily ignored the nudges - trust me, I tried, but the time leading this group was one of the moments that helped **heal me in the waiting. What gifts could God be asking you to hone in on in a season of waiting?**

Transition back into Joseph's story:

We see the part of the end of Joseph's story in Genesis 50:15-21.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people^[b] should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

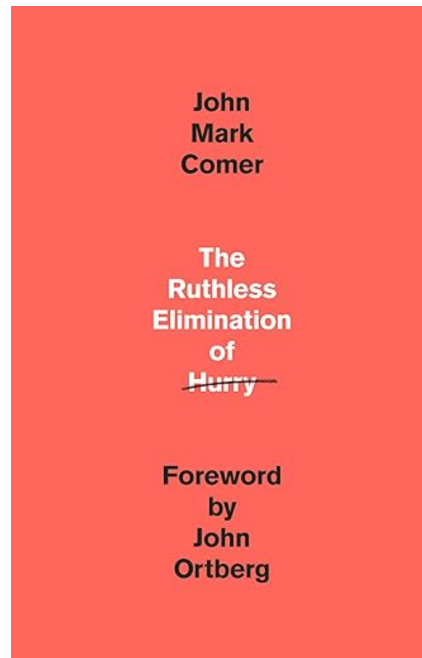
Applications

Now that we've seen a few examples of what it looks like in the waiting, I want to move into some of those applications that you could take in your own life when you find yourselves or others in a season of waiting.

APPLICATION POINTS:

- **Lament the losses** - Biblical lament is expressing grief, sorrow, or pain to God, often while also seeking His comfort, guidance, and action. It's a way of acknowledging suffering and seeking hope in God's faithfulness, even in difficult times. Lament is not simply complaining, but rather a prayerful cry out to God, recognizing His presence and seeking his intervention in a difficult situation without letting it turn to bitterness. What does Lament look like? Joseph had lots to lament but didn't talk about how I wrestled with it, but that doesn't mean he didn't have moments of this. For me, it mean grieving what could have been through journaling and writing in a blog. It also mean being honest with myself and taking the step of going to counseling - both individually and couples counseling.
 - Lament could also look like not acting like everything is okay when you walk into the church doors or show up to Lifegroup. It could look like asking the hard questions or crying out to God when it's all too much. Thankfully, both Joseph and my stories were redeemed in beautiful ways, but I know that this isn't always the case. Lamenting holds space for that possibility of a no, too. Lamenting isn't easy and I've only scratched the surface on what this looks like. If you'd like to see more of my story, especially some of the raw emotions and moments, I've linked my blog below and I would love to talk through more of my story or even the struggles of your waiting season with you. [Link to blog...](#) **talk through this put email address.**
- **Frame your setbacks as a reset. As difficult as this can be, this is the one that I found most helpful even when we are waiting for bigger things.** Don't be afraid to lean into what God is calling you to. I'm not suggesting that all of you have to go lead a group or even a bible study, but I challenge you to look at how opportunities in the waiting would be different if you reframed them. God does some of the deepest work in the waiting room. One of the biggest setbacks was when vocal cord was paralyzed in surgery #2. As a teacher it was extremely difficult to do my job, and this was one of the first times that I started looking for other opportunities and even considered leaving the job I had worked so hard for and had so much pride in.
 - Framing the loss of my voice as a reset allowed me to see what other opportunities were out there and begin to realize that my priorities weren't what my priorities should be. **It was a setback, but framing it as a reset helped me hold on to that hope that He has something good even if it isn't here on earth.** Being the English teacher I am, you know I have to share a couple of book recommendations with you. Out of the books I read in those 4 years, these two were probably the most impactful.

- The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry - Libby audio and ebook - helped frame what priorities and boundaries were important
- Wait and See- hoopla both audio and ebook a unique structure that helps you create your own story through writing and help you dig deep into the possibilities that are out there. One of my favorite quotes from this book is “We have to allow God to do a work in us before he can do a work through us.”



- **Lean into Community** - I'll be the first to tell you this was one of the hardest parts initially and I pushed back on this strongly by keeping my "I can do it" attitude. And even though I had had that attitude for so long, it quickly let me down. During this season, I quickly learned was so important to have a support system. As much as I wanted to do it all myself, this strenuous season of long suffering would not have been sustainable.
 - Community offered me a place to be honest with where I was mentally and physically, a place to deepen relationships that reminded me that I wasn't alone and there are still so many pieces of joy despite the setbacks. Putting effort into community was one of the most rewarding elements of this season and I am so very thankful for the relationships I have gained whether it be through game nights, life groups, or truly just doing life together.
- **Application to support others in their season of waiting - be there to listen - actively.**
 - While we all find ourselves in the waiting at some point it's not always the biggest thing on our mind. But the truth is that someone else in your circle is probably finding themselves in their own waiting room. Being a support for them can be just as impactful as making the decision to reframe your own waiting. One of the biggest suggestions I could give would be to offer a listening ear and actively listen. Sometimes this listening will be short lived because they aren't ready to talk about it or sometimes this active listing might require a little activity on your end. Active steps you could take would be contributing to meal trains or checking in, helping with

chores or kid drop offs. Small gestures like this help others know they are not forgotten when it seems like the world is leaving them behind.

Ending

My story isn't over, but thankfully the faith I've needed to show in a waiting room has been much less lately. I was cleared from treatment a short while after my third surgery and from there it took us a few months to figure out what a life without waiting rooms could look like, then shortly after we welcomed our beautiful daughter, Haven and she was so worth the wait.

I know you're all dying to know how the camping ended up. We ended up salvaging the weekend. We did have to drive back into town and buy a new tent because not only was it soaked, but it was missing a few key pieces after they got whisked away or broken. The weekend turned into be a sweet weekend of making the most of a situation (after I got over a little bitterness). I was a good reminder to us that a little setback doesn't have to ruin everything.

Overall looking back, things I learned in the waiting season have led me to be better. If I had continue to just wait on having a child - my life would have been turned upside down in the immediate weeks after her birth when she ended up in the NICU and hospital. If I kept up with the speed I was going before I was called to waiting room after waiting room, I would not be the mom or wife or person I am today. Was I thankful for these moments of challenged identity in the midst of it all? Absolutely not - but looking back I can see how God used those opportunities to continue to shape be despite life not working on MY timeline.

I challenge you next time you find yourself in a season of waiting to not try and rush through, but to have faith in that waiting room and see what God could be doing in the moments you first think are a setback. God can truly transform graves into gardens; however, these gardens may not align with your own plans. In truth, they often turn out to be far more wonderful than you could have imagined.



Pray as the band comes up

A background image showing a woman on the left wearing a blue surgical mask and a man on the right sitting at a desk with a computer monitor. Both are smiling. The image is faded to allow text to be overlaid.

Faith

IN THE WAITING ROOM

CRYSTAL OGLESBY



The Oglesbys



August 2021





Faith

IN THE WAITING ROOM

Biblical Examples of Waiting

Sarah and
Abraham
waitng for
the promise
of a child

David
waiting for
his
Kingship

Hannah
waiting on
her son,
Samuel

Moses
waiting on
Mount
Sinai

Joseph
waiting for
dreams and
reunion to
his family

Jesus,
himself
waiting

Genesis 37:5-9

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: 7 Behold, we were binding sheaves (a bundle of grainstalks tied together) in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Genesis 37:18-20

18 They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits.[b](#) Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."

My Waiting Room



Reflection:

- What has your pit looked like in the past or what does it look like now?
- What anguish is your busyness not masking?



Genesis 39:1-3

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. 2 The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

Genesis 39:4-6

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. 5 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. 6 So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

My Waiting Room



Reflection:

- **What details do you remember from your waiting room?**
- **How has God shown favor in your waiting?**



Genesis 39:6-9

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. 7 And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. 9 He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Genesis 39:10-12

10 And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. 11 But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, 12 she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

Genesis 39:16-21

16 Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, 17 and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. 18 But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house." 19 As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. 20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

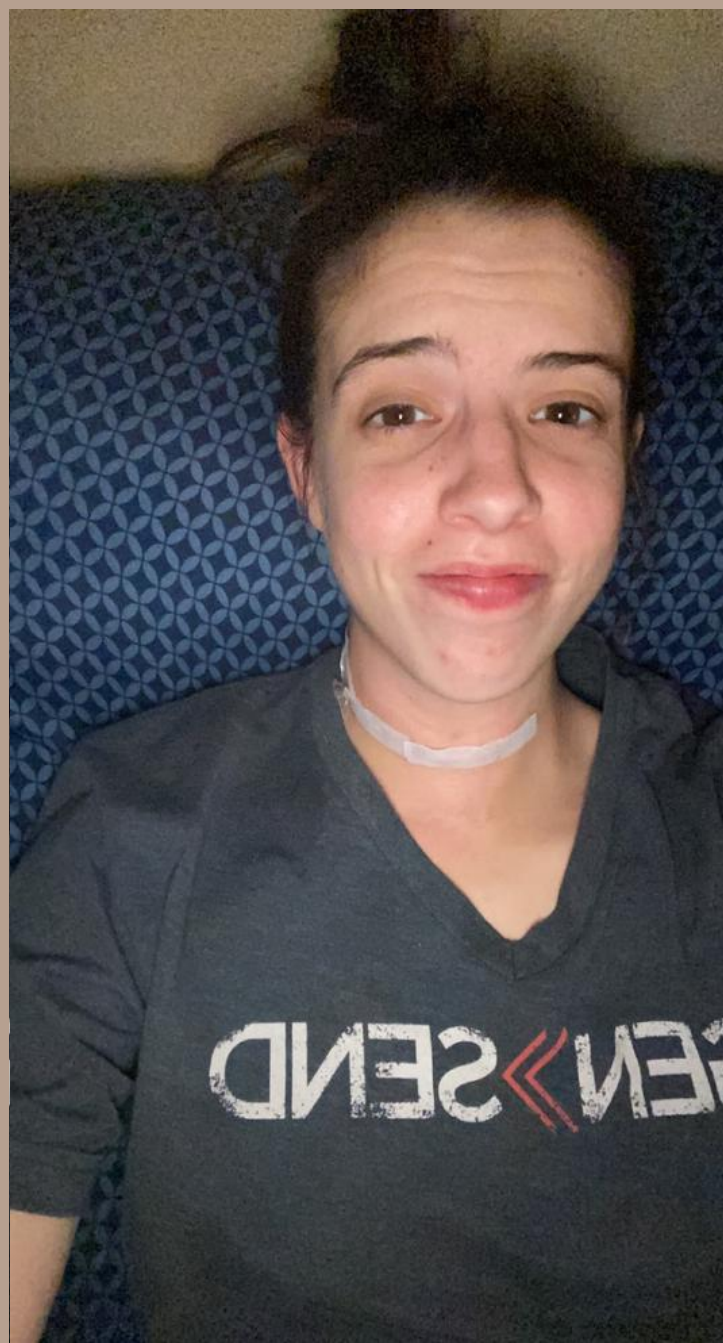
Genesis 40:1-4

Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. 2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. 4 The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

Genesis 40:5-8

5 And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, “Why are your faces downcast today?” 8 They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”

My Waiting Room



Reflection:

- **What gifts could God be asking you to hone in on in a season of waiting?**



Genesis 50:15-17

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 17 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father."

Genesis 50:17-21

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people[[b](#)] should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

How can you keep faith in your own waiting room?

Lament
the
losses

- Biblical Lament: Expressing grief, sorrow, or pain to God, often while also seeking His comfort, guidance, and action.
 - Lament is not complaining, but rather a prayerful cry out to God - without letting it turn to bitterness.
- **Hope and Heartache Blog:**
<https://hopeandheartache.wixsite.com>
- **My Email:** Cchitwoo@g.emporia.edu

How can you keep faith in your own waiting room?

Reframe
your
setback as
a reset

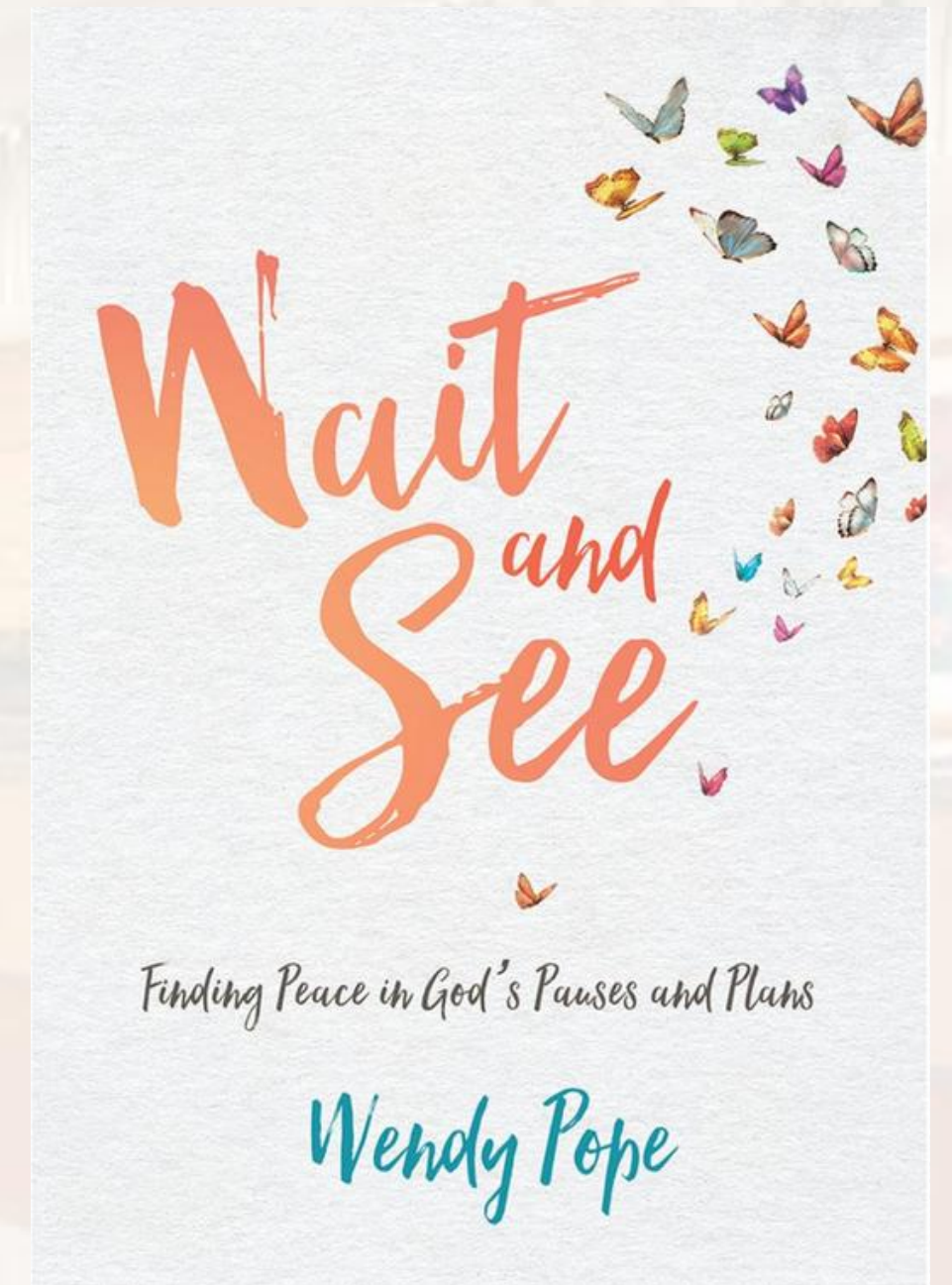
- I found this one the hardest, but truthfully most helpful to not waste this season or be stuck in a cycle of depression and bitterness
- What is God calling you to?

How can you keep faith in your own waiting room?

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a reset



Available on Amazon and
Libby as audio and eBook



Available on Amazon and
Hoopla as audio and eBook

How can you keep faith in your own waiting room?

Lean
into
community

- An “I can do it” attitude isn’t sustainable long term. You miss out on so many joys and relationships
- Community offers a place to be honest with how you are doing in a season
- Look for community in your daily lives, it might take a little work, but it’s worth it

When you see others waiting, what can you do?

Actively
listen &
take
action

- Contribute to a meal train
- Check in
- Help out with chores
- Help with kid drop offs
- Help with animals at home if they are gone

How can you keep faith in your own waiting room?

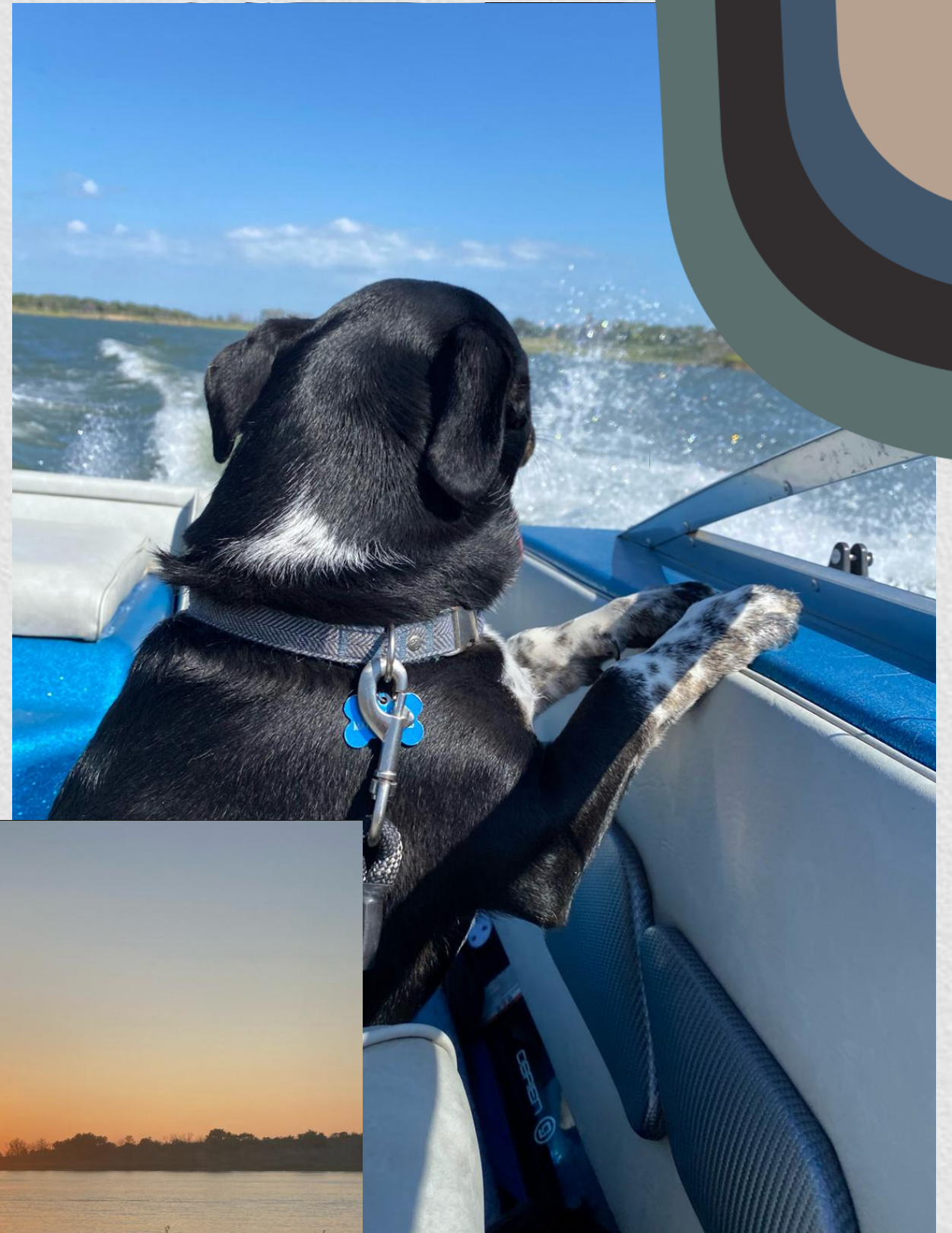
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August 2021





Faith

IN THE WAITING ROOM