



BEYOND THE RING BY SPRING RUSE

A 10-DAY GUIDE TO DEEPEN YOUR
FAITH WHILE YOU DATE AND WAIT

GRACE MCCREADY

**Beyond the Ring by Spring Ruse:
A 10-Day Guide to Deepen Your Faith While You Date and Wait**

By Grace McCready

In this devotional, Grace uses 10 Scriptures to reveal 10 realities of dating and waiting that every single young woman should know. Her hope is to guide readers toward deeper faith in God as they navigate singleness. Through this guide, Grace helps them grow in knowledge and understanding of God's Word, ultimately equipping them to replace false narratives with true narratives.

Day 1

Scripture: Job 42:1-6

Devotional: Disappointment is a frequent struggle for me. I think my expectations about certain things are way too high, and whenever my way-too-high expectations aren't met, I feel disappointed. I *definitely* felt disappointed when I finished college without a husband, a fiancé, or a boyfriend. Since graduation, however, I've realized that my expectations about finding love in college weren't based on anything solid. Trusting God's plan—rather than my own plan—enables me to wait without losing heart. His ability to see the big picture and the little details is something I lack as a finite human being—but that's okay. God's plan for me is perfect, and nothing can prevent it from coming to pass.

Prayer: *Dear God, I confess that I've been stubborn and prideful about finding love. Forgive me for allowing my expectations to become too important. While I desperately desire to know how I'll meet my future husband, I ultimately desire to submit to Your plan. Help me trust Your ways instead of losing heart when my expectations aren't met.*

Day 2

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-25

Devotional: I've wanted to get married since . . . well, forever. Although I sometimes wonder if I'll ever find love, I don't genuinely think that lifelong singleness is my destiny. I believe that God designed most people for marriage. After all, when He created Adam, He created Eve to fulfill his longing for a companion. Pretending that I'm indifferent toward marriage doesn't make my desire for it disappear. I look forward to meeting my future husband, and I can speak candidly and confidently about this reality, even though God hasn't led him into my life yet. I know He values marriage because He created it.

Prayer: *Dear God, having this unfulfilled longing for a husband is really hard sometimes. I know You placed this longing in my heart, and I know You can fulfill it. But I feel guilty about looking forward to marriage, especially when people tell me I just need to be joyful and content. Give me strength to accept Your will for my life—but also to be honest about the desires You’ve given me.*

Day 3

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33

Devotional: Sometimes, having friends feels like the only way to survive singleness. The loneliness that accompanies this season of life is so real and so raw. But when I tried to deal with my loneliness by devoting myself to a particular friend, I ended up feeling bitter, not better. Although having friends during singleness can be a wonderful thing, it’s important to have the right perspective on their role. Expecting a friend to “fill in” for a not-yet-present husband will only lead to disappointment. Unlike friendship—which can last for any length of time—marriage is meant to last for a lifetime. It represents Christ’s unconditional love for and commitment to His bride, the Church.

Prayer: *Dear God, marriage paints such a beautiful picture of Christ’s relationship with the Church, and I want to paint that picture with my future marriage, not my current friendships. But I need strength and wisdom to set and keep boundaries with my friends while I’m single. Help me follow Your design for my relationships instead of trying to make substitutions.*

Day 4

Scripture: Isaiah 41:17-20

Devotional: I’ve learned the hard way that finding love isn’t something I can do on my own. Even though I don’t like feeling helpless, I can have hope knowing that the Lord is my helper. Through His power, water flows in the desert, and trees spring up in the wilderness. He works in the most unexpected ways, and I can’t wait to see how He’ll work in this area of my life. Though I believe I’m called to participate in His plan by walking through the doors He opens—and by putting my best foot forward as I do—I realize that meeting my future husband isn’t ultimately about my efforts; it’s about God’s ability to accomplish what feels impossible.

Prayer: *Dear God, I’ve put so much effort into finding love, but I still haven’t found it. Even though I wish I could make it happen, I know it’s in Your hands, not mine. I want to wait on You to work because I know You work in wonderful ways. Do the impossible in my life so I’ll know beyond a doubt that You made it happen.*

Day 5

Scripture: Psalm 40:1-5

Devotional: After I graduated from college, it felt like everyone found love except me. Sadness (and self-pity) seemed to follow me whenever I went home from a bridal shower, a bachelorette party, or a wedding ceremony. Honestly, feeling behind—behind my friends who have husbands, fiancés, or boyfriends—is something I wrestle with quite often. I want to know when I'll have what they have. Still, deep down, I know that comparing my life to my friends' lives only leads to despair. The Lord is all-knowing and all-powerful, so I have nothing to fear. Even when He seems distant, He's present and active.

Prayer: *Dear God, there are times when I wonder if You truly see me and hear me, especially when other people get the things I desire so desperately. In those moments, I'm tempted to shift my focus from Your promises to my circumstances (and my friends' circumstances). Remind me that You know me and love me more than anyone and that You haven't forgotten me or forsaken me.*

Day 6

Scripture: 1 Kings 11:1-8

Devotional: "Missionary dating" is a phrase people use to describe romantic relationships between Christians and non-Christians. When I was younger, I received many warnings about missionary dating, but it felt like a pretty abstract concept—until I developed a crush on a non-Christian coworker. I really wanted him to like me and ask me out, but he never expressed interest in dating me. That was a genuine blessing, even though it didn't feel like one at the time. In hindsight, I see that God used his lack of romantic interest to protect me from a relationship that likely would've harmed my heart, mind, and soul.

Prayer: *Dear God, I know it's not Your will for me to marry a non-Christian, but sometimes it feels like non-Christians are my only available options. I don't know many single guys who are growing in their faith, and settling seems so much easier than waiting. But I understand that there are consequences for clinging to guys who don't follow You, and I ask for endurance to wait for a guy who does.*

Day 7

Scripture: Proverbs 4:20-27

Devotional: The first guy who expressed interest in dating me, James*, seemed like a nice, normal guy initially. I was smitten with him as soon as I met him. But our dates weren't that great, and our relationship wasn't that great either. It didn't take long for me to notice he

lacked compatibility, commitment, and character. In spite of seeing his flaws (and discovering even more after our relationship ended), I hated losing him. Ultimately, however, I'm relieved our relationship didn't go any further. I believe God led him into my life, but I also believe God led him out of my life.

Prayer: *Dear God, I want to stay on the path You have for me. I realize I could end up with the wrong guy if I don't pay attention to where I'm walking. Still, it's easier to brush off a guy's issues—especially the seemingly small ones—than address them objectively. Help me heed red flags and yellow flags whenever I become interested in a guy.*

Day 8

Scripture: Psalm 34:4-19

Devotional: When my relationship with James ended, I grieved. Honestly, grieving such a brief relationship made me feel silly and weak, but I needed healing. I felt betrayed by the only guy who had ever asked me out and claimed to be fond of me. Though I wasn't sure how to heal from my pain, I ended up memorizing Psalm 34. The words of this psalm were both comforting and humbling—and they were exactly what I needed in my post-James days. The experience revealed how long the emotional healing process can take—but it also revealed the Lord's patience in this process.

Prayer: *Dear God, even though I'm upset about my relationship coming to an end, I believe You're near to me in the midst of my grief. I feel like I need to get over it and move on, but I know this process isn't something I can rush through. Heal my broken heart as I take my pain to You.*

Day 9

Scripture: Proverbs 16:1-9

Devotional: The me-and-James thing happened so naturally. We met, we vibed, and we went out. But then we split up. The relationship definitely didn't turn out the way I thought it would. James didn't treat me well, and I resented him for it. Frankly, I also resented God because I knew He could've prevented the relationship from even starting. Despite my best efforts to figure out the "why," it remains unknown to me—but God knows the "why." I don't believe my relationship with James was an unfortunate, meaningless tragedy; I believe God led us into each other's lives for a purpose because He's a purposeful God.

Prayer: *Dear God, I'm usually tempted to doubt myself—or You—when a relationship turns out differently than I expected. I tend to lean into cynicism rather than hope. But I don't want*

to see a relationship as a waste simply because it's over; I want to see it the way You see it. Help me trust Your plan, even the parts I don't fully understand.

Day 10

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Devotional: Despite having many, many years of waiting experience, I'm not great at waiting. Honestly, I'm so eager to enter the next season of life that I often fail to see the significance of *this* season of life. But it definitely has significance. Singleness is a season God can use to deepen my faith. Plus, singleness is a season God can use to prepare me for marriage. There are practical steps I can take toward becoming a godly wife, even though I'm not married yet. Idleness is a choice, and it's not a choice that honors the Lord or my future husband.

Prayer: *Dear God, I tend to spend more time dreaming about marriage than preparing for it. Waiting with intentionality is difficult, but I know it's what You desire for me. Whether my season of singleness lasts a few more months or a few more decades, I want it to be a fruitful season. Show me what You want me to learn and how You want me to grow.*

*Name has been changed.

Grace McCreedy is a writer and speaker who is passionate about encouraging young women through personal stories and scriptural truths. She is the author of [*Real Recovery*](#) and [*The Ring by Spring Ruse*](#), and she blogs at [*Tizzie's Tidbits of Truth*](#). She is also a full-time writer/editor for a Christian ministry.