

*Sacred Singleness:  
The Set-Apart Girl's Guide to Purpose and Fulfillment*

By Leslie Ludy

Chapter 6: Giving God a Hand

*Discussion Questions:*

1. In our culture the roles of men and women have become so convoluted that we no longer understand them especially in dating relationships. Do you find yourself believing that you must "make things happen" or "pursue men and marriage" if you're ever going to get married?
2. On pages 80-81, Leslie reminds us of the story of Abraham and Ishmael – the son he had with Sarah's maid servant. Abraham could not understand how God could give him and his wife a hand in their old age, so he decided to help Him out.

"Are you trying to create an Ishmael of your own making? Are you attempting to give God a hand in finding a guy and getting married?" p. 81

3. When we set up a pattern of leadership in our dating relationships, the pattern continues into our marriage. Then we wonder why we do not have a husband who leads the family like we wish he would.

What can you do now to guard yourself from leading in your dating relationships? How can you give your dates the opportunity to lead in ways appropriate in a dating relationship?

4. I have often wondered about the story of Ruth. It always seemed to me that she was a bit aggressive when she went and laid down at Boaz's feet. Leslie does a wonderful job of explaining how she was not pursuing Boaz, but she was following God's will for a purpose greater than her own earthly desires.

How can we know when God is calling us to speak and to be quiet? To act and to be still? To approach and to stay put?

*This Week's Prayer:*

I know, Lord, that you have something wonderful planned for me – my Isaac. I do not want to rush ahead in my own impatience and reach for an Ishmael because I am scared or lonely or desperate. I want to be consumed by you, Lord, so that my decisions are based on your greater purposes. I want to wait on you. Please help me, Lord. Amen.