

# The Principles Session 5

1. **The Wasteland Wedge:** We are frustrated by our awareness of the growing gap between expectations and reality. By our own timetable, we should be much further along.

2. **The Wasteland focuses on the dreamer's preparation.**

- Capacity is enlarged
- Character is strengthened
- Confidence is developed
- Consistency is built
- Competence is improved
- Calling is clarified
- Communication with God is deepened.
- The Wasteland is necessary because we aren't ready
- The Wasteland calls us to be patient.

3. **The Wasteland is proportionate to the size of the dream:**

- Small dream, small wasteland; large dream, large wasteland.
- Wasteland is long, difficult, and multiple. God is maturing many different capacities and characteristics within us during this period.

## The Pitfalls Session 5

Myths and misconceptions about the Wasteland.

1. **"The Wasteland season is preventable."**

Truth: There is no way around it. It is an inevitable stage for the achievement of every dream.

2. **"The Wasteland season is purposeless."**

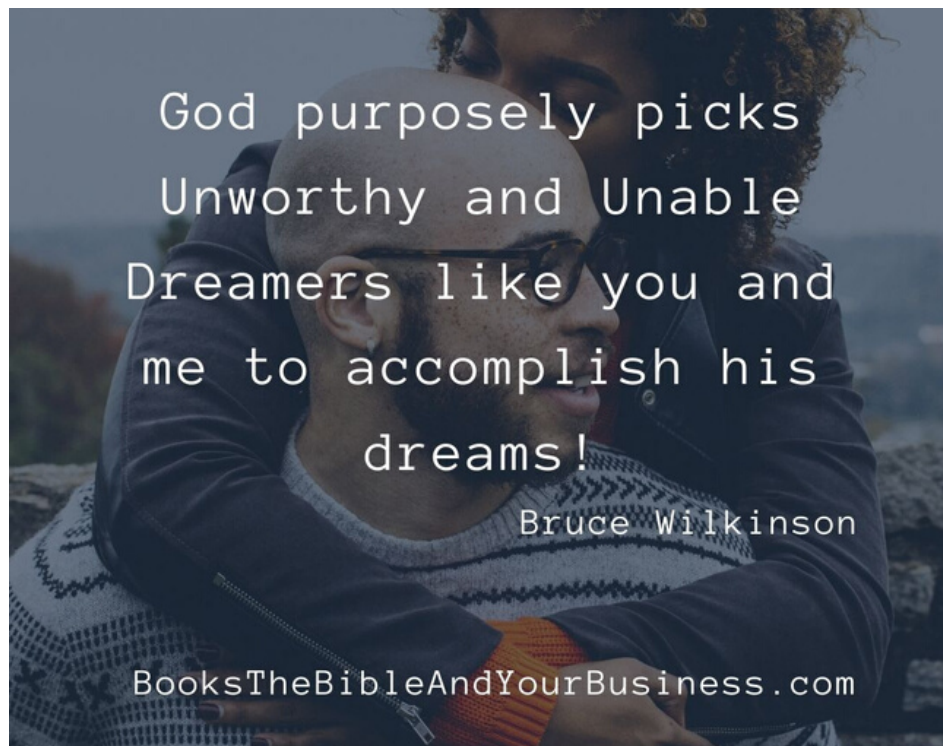
Truth: While it feels like a waste of time and energy, it is a necessary stage of seasoning and preparation.

# The Pattern Session 5

## Emotional Stages of the Wasteland Wedge - depending on our response!

1. **Disappointment** - "I expected to make more progress."
2. **Determination** - "Maybe if I work harder?"
3. **Discouragement** - "Why can't I break out of this slump?"
4. **Doubt** - "Was I wrong about the dream?"
5. **Disillusionment** - "I didn't know the world was this way."
6. **Distress** - "I am a failure."
7. **Double-mindedness** - "Maybe I'll continue, maybe not."
8. **Despair** - "I have no hope."
9. **Death of the dream** - "I give up."

*In the midst of the emotional turmoil of distress, we are highly susceptible to moral temptation and failure.*



God purposely picks  
Unworthy and Unable  
Dreamers like you and  
me to accomplish his  
dreams!

Bruce Wilkinson

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# My Own Journey Session 5

1. When I think about my own personal strength in facing the Wasteland ahead, I would evaluate myself this way:

2. As I reflect upon my particular dream, I can imagine that my Wasteland would be something like this:

3. I realize that the Wasteland help me toward being "mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:4) Here are the areas I would expect God to work most:

\_\_\_ Capacity is enlarged

\_\_\_ Character is strengthened

\_\_\_ Confidence is developed

\_\_\_ Consistency is built

\_\_\_ Competence is improved

\_\_\_ Calling is clarified

\_\_\_ Communion with God is deepened

5. Here are some ways I will gain strength from God to make it through the Wasteland:

6. Wasteland Covenant: "I believe the Wasteland is a necessary stage in my journey to fulfill the dream. I therefore place all my trust in the Dream Giver. I pledge to cooperate with Him fully in all the ways He works within and around me to prepare for completion of the dream."

Signed:

Date:

# My Groups Journey Session 5

1. Which group members have encountered the Wasteland stage? Which are in it now? Discuss as a group.

2. Read James 1:2-4. What truths do you find encouraging about this passage? What truths do you find most challenging? Why?

3. Do you think it is possible to find joy in discouragement, as this passage commands? How?

4. Read Romans 8:28, 31. What do we learn about God's process for our lives? How should we therefore look upon various advances and setbacks?

5. What can we do to help others through their trials and testing? Who needs help right now?