

EXCERPT

Work It, Momma! 5 Biblical Principles for the Budding Mompreneur

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INTRO

It's nine a.m. on a Tuesday. You are:

- A. Dressed to impress as you log onto your computer in your cubicle. You can't help but look up and smile at the latest painted masterpiece from your eight-year-old son framed on your desk — alongside pictures of him in every stage and season.
- B. Walking bleary-eyed into your living room from working the night shift at the local hospital. You want to replace your scrubs with a night (day?) gown but know that sleep is not in your immediate future. Your moody sixteen-year-old overslept (again), and you'll have to drive her to school since her bus is long gone.
- C. Picking diced peaches out of your braids, which needed to be taken out three weeks ago. You are wearing a worn T-shirt and sweatpants and losing the breakfast battle. Your fifteen-month-old son has wrestled the bowl of fruit out of your hand and is now aiming the contents at your face.
- D. Figuring out when to call and check on your youngest daughter who should be in her dorm room at college or text your oldest son to see if he still needs to drop off your grandchildren this weekend. Your work-from-home position gives you the flexibility to make these calls, but your boss's demands keep you from being able to fully concentrate on your family's needs the way you want. You'd love to retire, but your monthly bills are more than you can currently manage.
- E. Wondering if you made the right choices for your children and yourself as a mom. You wonder if there is something more that you should be doing, or something less. You question if what's going on with your life right now is all that will ever be or if there is another untapped purpose specifically for you that doesn't involve a breast pump, next week's daycare payment, getting your son to his football practice on time, or lecturing your adult child on finances.

If you answered A, B, C, D, or even E to the above question, this book is for you.

Working mom or stay-at-home-mom, hoping to be a mom, or already queen of a large tribe, this book is meant to inspire and enthuse, but most of all encourage you wherever you are on the motherhood continuum.

Maybe you are a full-time mom who has given up a career to cater to a person who has no hang-ups about public drooling, but a smile that makes your heart melt every time. Despite the diaper explosions and temper tantrums, you are happy to be at home, but money is tight and

you are feeling overworked and underpaid, overlooked and unappreciated, and rethinking your decision.

Maybe you are contemplating motherhood or already a few months pregnant and are excited at the prospect of providing mommy duty but wondering if you will still feel fulfilled as a person or afraid that your life will get off track taking care of everybody else's needs and dreams.

Perhaps your children are not really children anymore, but full-grown folk staring down college and careers and families of their own. As you watch your nest emptying, you are remembering some other dreams and roles you imagined you'd take on in your life.

Maybe you are a full-time mom *with* a career outside the home who is immediately turned off by the phrase *stay-at-home mom* and find such wording to be...well, fighting words. Well, please relax, exhale, and take off the gloves. I am not writing to argue for or against a mother's individual choice — or pressing circumstances that dictate that choice — as to whether a mom should be working or at home. I believe most mothers are doing what they believe is best for their families and personal callings, working or not.

As a mom to three children, I personally have worked full-time and worked part-time. I have started a home-based business and have leased office space. I've been a student, a stay-at-home mom, an independent contractor, an intern, an employee, a mystery shopper, a novelist, and a freelancer. I've worked for others and worked for myself.

My biggest entrepreneurial success came after a corporate layoff. At the scariest moment of my career to date, I took the plunge to start a full-time private psychotherapy practice and quickly learned the meaning of "sink or swim." For context, the week I was first ready to see patients turned out to be the same week everything in my state shut down for the COVID-19

global pandemic. March 2020, y'all. There was no proper-fitting life vest handy when I jumped into the deep end of entrepreneurship; however, I had no choice but to keep swimming.

In other words, I get it: you do what you gotta do, to do what you gotta do.

But if when all is said and done, at the end of the day you still find yourself looking in the mirror wondering, *Is this it?* or you're looking at the bottom line of the household checking account wondering, *Is this all?*, perhaps you'll find some encouragement and thoughts to consider within the pages of this book.

When I started chasing my business dreams, I longed for guidance and support. There were (are) long days and dark nights when I needed (need) inspiration and reminders of sustaining principles and promises. From this space of lived experiences, wrestling with God's Word, and reflecting on His wisdom, I present to you lessons learned, revelations, and realizations that *continue* to help sustain me.

This book is not meant to be an exhaustive study or philosophical exegesis on motherhood, material sustenance, or money. This is not legal, professional, or financial advice nor deep prophetic declarations, manifestations, or affirmations. Just think of these five chapters as a quick nutritional snack in your day – a fiber bar, if you will – that gives you something good and practical to chew on and digest, energizes you, holds you over until you're ready for a four-course meal (do those still exist?).

I know, I know; you don't have a lot of time. I get that, too. Just getting this far has already cost a lot of your day. So please know my goal is to get right to the point in an easy-to-read format. So easy, in fact, we're going to go back to the basics. All the way back. As in 1-2-3s and A-B-Cs. You'll see what I mean in a moment.

Ready? Let's go get our hands dirty in our fields.