

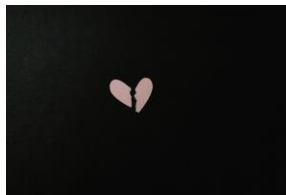
Zahara asks “What about Love & Teen Pregnancy?”—Part 12



Zahara is a 15-year-old young lady, living in Nakivale Refugee Camp. She has grown in her wisdom at a rapid pace, but is confused why so many of her girlfriends are becoming pregnant?

As she was visiting Bibi, she prompted her grandmother by stating, “Bibi, remember the story of my best girlfriend, Masiko.” Bibi fondly smiled stating, “Do you know Zahara, Ugandan girls named Masiko not only grow up with self-respect, but they earn it by bettering themselves through reading, studying, and listening to others. Her name does describe my memory of her.”

Zahara’s best girlfriend was one of the most intelligent teens in all of Nakivale. She was the top student in Success Roots School, achieving the highest grades possible in almost every subject. She was enthusiastic and optimistic about her future, and even talked about the possibility of returning to Nakivale as a doctor, when she completed her studies. Now her whole life has turned dark because she had become pregnant with a child.



Zahara had run over in despair to talk to Bibi about this. She was crying, with tears of unhappiness and anguish, as she began describing her friend’s dilemma.

Bibi stated that in our culture it does not look good for a girl to have a baby before 18 years. In most cases, the parents will not accept the pregnant girl's story, especially if she is having birth prints. It does not look good for a girl to have a boyfriend before the age of 18 years.

Unfortunately, the parents of Masiko rejected her, accusing her of having a boyfriend. Even the community did not believe her story that she was raped by a man hiding in the bushes while innocently walking home at night from school.

Zahara had cried in despair, "The parents and the community are saying, don't be friends with that girl again. She is a spoiled girl and she is going to spoil you. Yet, her friend had done nothing wrong and she was telling that it was her first time."



Zahara's sadness continued. "So she does not know what to?? At home, no one likes her. They even say, leave her to do whatever she wants. They are rejecting her to stay at home. She is telling them, "I have nowhere to go, where do you expect me to go? Let me be at home and I will do my own thing. So she is living in that life of everyone judging, accusing and insulting her."

Zahara continued, "Now, she is even thinking of having an abortion. And then she said to me, instead of having an abortion, let me end my life. Let me just kill myself."

However, before she did that, she softly asked, "I am going through this and this is what is happening to me. I really need your help Zahara." Zahara said, "Wait, I will call Grandmother Bibi. Let us see what she has to say?"



Bibi came over immediately. Bibi began talking to Masiko about *happiness and loving herself*. Bibi said, “Firstly, you have to love yourself. Right now, you are even cursing that man on what he did to you, you are even cursing that you foolishly walked from school at night. What that means to me is that you already don’t love yourself. The fact that you want to kill yourself, proves that you do not love yourself. These are thoughts that are coming from your sadness, your feelings of hopelessness and from not being connected to your beauty. Zahara has told me how much she values your friendship because of how much you care about other people’s suffering. Now, it is your turn to care about your own suffering and to see the light of God’s love inside you.

People will always talk. Don’t expect to only hear good things from people. People are going to talk negative, even though there is no basis for such talk. But what will you decide? Are you going to kill yourself or live this life enjoying, and isn’t that what you want? Or do you want to just end your life like this?

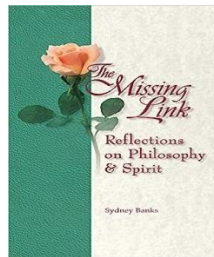
Remember you are not the first person to go through this situation and you are not going to be the last person. The answer lies in the power of mind. In your soul, what do you think? I can see that the spirit in you is strong. That is your inner guide to the answer to your questions. Do you want to be happy and love your baby is an important question?

Then Bibi mentioned to Masiko that not everyone will be loving to her, but Zahara and I are here for you. “Just be aware that we are your support. You have to promise us one thing. **You are going to love yourself.** Let us see that smile. Let us see your love, your prettiness because that is a blessing that you are caring inside. That is a gift from God. The bible says, “Children are a gift from God.” So you are carrying the gift in your womb. You have to love that gift. When you start loving yourself, you will start loving the baby as well.”



Masiko embraced what Bibi and Zahara were pointing to. She captured this feeling of love. To deepen the teachings, Bibi said, “Forgive yourself, and even though your parents and the community are not believing your story, don’t get mad at them and forgive them.” She accepted these teachings and because she experienced her love and forgiveness for everything, Masiko walked into the community positively and securely; and ignored all the initial negative glances and talks put on her.

Bibi had read from the Missing Link to Masiko:



*“Forgiveness is a powerful remedy
to clear thoughts of negative memories.
It frees us from the emotional prisoners of our past,
providing opportunities of life anew.*

“What a difference,” Zahara said. “At first Masiko was thinking I am going to kill the baby, I am going to drop the baby, or I will give away the baby so that I can be free and do my own thing. But when she had the baby, she surprised everyone by saying, “I am not giving away my baby. I want my baby so that I can breast feed her, and then I am going to go back to school.” So she came home with the baby from the hospital and was feeding the baby. When the parents saw that she was determined to love both herself and the baby, they saw that if she can take care of the baby and be happy for what she has, that means we also should be happy for her. Eventually, the community accepted her because she did not have her mind in negativity. They embraced her because everyone’s hearts are lovingly touched when they see a happy mother with a happy baby. The happiness of the baby melted the hearts of her parents and the community and brought even more happiness into the heart of Masiko.”

Zahara wisely stated, “She has learned about the teachings of self-love, no matter what life throws at us. She has learned to be true to herself and listen to her inner voice.”

However, a *troubling thought* arose in Zahara. “But Bibi, so many of my teen girlfriends are getting pregnant, and it is not from rape, but from boyfriends or boys who persuaded them to have sex with them.”



Bibi said, “Take Masiko as a lesson for you, Zahara. When a young girl is beautiful, intelligent and wise, the boys or older men like her even more. That is natural as they are attracted to her beauty inside and outside. They naturally feel the sexual energy pouring into their thoughts and body. One thing I can tell you with certainty, some but not all men let these thoughts dominate their character and decisions in life.

However, if you personally succumb to these desires, it can literally ruin your life. By that, I mean, you are limiting what you can attain in your life if you have a baby too early. Many potential powerful female leaders are stunted by the burden of having too many babies early in their lives. There is a time to have babies, and *I am now speaking as a grandmother*, I want you to attain your unlimited potential. You have so much to offer Zahara, but I promise you that while sexual feelings can be wonderful in the moment, bringing up babies is a commitment and effort that can eliminate you becoming a leader, healer or powerful spokeswoman for the community.

In the right moment, with the right man, it is a gift to be cherished. Do not give the gift freely to any fool that asks for it.”



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<https://www.acttraining.biz/post/af4-zahara-asks-what-is-love-bookclub>