

Immediately after God gives Abram the promise of the covenant, to bless him, grant him land, and descendants, time elapses and we see Abram and Sarai becoming impatient for the arrival of a child. Taking matters into their own hands, they determine to “help” the Lord with His plan in granting the couple a child.

Genesis 16:1-16

Sarai

and

Hagar

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Waiting upon the Lord can be a challenge. Not only does patience require trust in God’s ultimate plan, it also demands that we recognize ours may not be the best. Coming to terms that our ways are not the Lord’s ways is hard, but trusting His ways are best often requires faith we just do not have.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

DO God’s plans and your plans tend to sync more often or not?

HOW do you tend to respond when your plan seems to be different than God’s plan?

DESCRIBE a time when God worked through a situation much differently than you’d expected. **HOW** did you navigate the unknowns of the circumstances you encountered?

WHY do we sometimes battle against God’s plan in our lives, even when we know He knows best?

Genesis 16:1-16 Read Genesis 16:1-16

Sarai and Hagar

OBSERVATION

Where was Sarai's servant from (vs. 1)?

Why does Sarai say she is unable to have a child (vs. 1)?

What is Sarai's plan and how does Abram feel about it (vs. 2)?

How much time has passed in Canaan (vs. 3)?

When Hagar becomes pregnant, what happens to her relationship with Sarai and what is Sarai's response in dealing with her (vs. 4-6)?

Where does Hagar go in response to Sarai's treatment of her, and who does she meet (vs. 6-7)?

What do you observe about Hagar's interaction with the angel of the LORD in vs. 8-12?

What does Hagar call the LORD and the well where she met Him (vs. 13-14)?

INTERPRETATION

According to vs. 2, why does Abram listen to the voice of his wife? Should he have done so in this circumstance? Why? Consider Genesis 3:17 and Adam's decision to do the same with Eve.

Why do you think Hagar looked with contempt upon Sarai after becoming pregnant?

Is Sarai wrong to blame Abram for the situation in vs. 5? What responsibilities does Abram have in these circumstances?

According to vs. 6, what can we infer regarding Sarai's treatment of Hagar?

Who is the angel of the LORD that meets Hagar? See Genesis 22:15-19, Exodus 3:2-5, Judges 6:11-12 for insight.

What insight can you draw from the two questions posed to Hagar in vs. 8. How might this relate to Acts 17:26-27?

What can you conclude about the character of the Lord as you consider the name Hagar gives Him in vs. 13?

APPLICATION

How does God's plan for Abram, Sarai, and even Hagar give you hope in the midst of whatever you're experiencing in your life? How does knowing He sees you bring you peace?