

Sermon Notes

"Hagar and Ishmael"

Genesis 16, 17:18-21; 21:8-21

March 22, 2020

4. Consider Genesis 17:20, 21:17. What theme is repeated from 16:11? Why is this repetition significant?

5. How does God keep his promises to Ishmael's parents (compare 16:10-12; 17:20; 21:11-13 to 25:12-18)? Even though Ishmael is not the child of the promise, God extends part of the promised blessings (see 12:2; 13:16; 15:5) to Ishmael "because he is [Abram's] offspring" (21:13). What does this expansion of blessing and fulfillment reveal about God?

6. What situation in your life do you need to know that God is living, that he sees you, and that he hears your cry?

Series Reading Schedule

Mar 22 – Gen 16-17

Mar 29 – Gen 17:15-18:15

Apr 4 (Break from series)

Apr 12 – Gen 22

Apr 19 – Gen 18:16-19:39

Let's Pray:

Julie Denker, Family Life - Little Rock, Arkansas

Pray for Julie as she continues to gain stamina after her pneumonia, and continues to seek God's will for her life in regard to moving to Orlando, Florida where the ministry will be relocating.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 03-22-20

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., *Life Change Series: Genesis*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, p. 115-122.

Getting Started:

1. Think of a promise God has made to you that he has not yet fulfilled. How does the waiting make you feel?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Gen. 16:1-6.
 - a. It was lawful for Abram to beget an heir through Sarai's maid. However, what attitude toward God did this attempt show? (compare with Gen. 15:4-6)
 - b. What character qualities did Abram display in this incident (16:1-6)?
 - c. How did Sarai treat God and other people in ...
16:2-3?
16:5?
16:6?

- d. Does Abram or Sarai set any example in 16:1-6 that you need to take steps to avoid? If so, what do you need to do?
 - e. Consider the promises God has given you. To what extent are you responsible to see that they are fulfilled? Have you ever tried to do God's job for him? Talk to him about this.
3. Read Genesis 16:7-16.
 - a. How does the Lord treat the oppressed Hagar? Does he do what you would expect? (Consider: What does he tell her to do? What does he promise? What does he say about himself?)
 - b. There are three names given at the end of this narrative: for the son, for God, and for the well. What does the name for each mean, and how is that significant for the meaning and emphasis of this narrative?