



Just One More

Week 2: Compromising in Faith

What we want students to learn: Don't compromise on what you want most for what you want now.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: Focus on WHO God is instead of HOW he does it.

Large Group Message Focus: Genesis 16:1-16

Scripture Focus: Genesis 16:1-9 and Genesis 50:20

The Main Point

Tonight's lesson will be on compromising in our faith. Whenever we are in a waiting season, hoping to see something happen, we are likely to compromise in our faith that God will accomplish it by taking matters into our own hands. Whenever we compromise our faith, it is because we don't know HOW God is going to do something and forget about WHO He says He is. We will examine Abram (Abraham) and how he compromised his faith because he wasn't sure how God would give him a son through his wife Sarai.

INTRODUCTION

How does a zipper work? How does the internet work? How does an iPhone, iPad, Mac, etc. function like it does? What are all the nitty gritty details that go into these things? I could keep going on with these questions and not get an in-depth answer that I could understand, but these things still work even though I don't understand how they work and function.

- **What is something that you don't understand how it works?**
- **Does your lack of understanding about how that thing works keep it from working like it is supposed to?**

We are asking this Icebreaker because this exact question can be applied to God and our faith. Even if we don't understand how God is going to do something, does that mean that He isn't going to do what He told us He would do? Absolutely not. As we dive into these topic of compromising our faith we must bring to mind that even though we have no clue how God will do something that is no reason to think it won't work out.

PRAY ... that your students keep this thought in the back of their mind throughout this group tonight and pray that this will really sink in and be crystal clear about ways they compromise their faith and the benefits of trusting God's timing and methods even when they don't make sense.

LESSON

Read Genesis 16:1-4 and ask the following questions.

- **What happened that was wrong in these verses?**

- *Both Abram and Sarai disobeyed God. It would've been better if when Sarai asked Abram if he would sleep with her slave and then he said no or the other way around. But, they both agreed to go with what they knew HOW to get a child rather than trusting WHO God is.*
- **Have you ever tried to take things into your own hands, instead of waiting on God to move?**
 - We've all done that at some point in our lives and if someone hasn't yet then there will be a time that they will. It's scary to do something that we don't understand. But this is the beauty of God, if He were small enough to be understood He would not be big enough to be worshipped! We have to understand that God cannot be understood.

Read Genesis 16:5-9 and ask the following question.

- **How do you think Hagar feels that Sarai mistreats her? How do you think she feels when the Angel goes back to Sarai?**
 - She probably felt betrayed, scared, confused, etc. When the angel told her to go back to Sarai, she was probably thinking "why in the world would that help me and/or how can God send me back there where I could be hurt?"

Read Genesis 50:20-21 and ask the following question.

- **How can this verse apply to Hagar's situation?**
 - *This verse comes from the story of Joseph. Joseph was mistreated by his brothers, sold into slavery, put in prison, and then he was the second most powerful man in Egypt. His life was full of being confused, scared, and betrayed. But, God used all of that for his benefit. He did the same thing with Hagar. She obeyed God and did not compromise what she wanted now (not being mistreated by Sarai) with what she ultimately wanted (receiving God's blessing that the angel told her about).*
- **How does it apply to a situation in your life?**
 - *God is always working for us even when it doesn't seem like it. He uses the disappointment, the insecurities, the rejection, and the troubles to bless us in ways we could never imagine. You never know what is on the other side of your obedience.*

LIFE APPLICATION

- **Reflect on a time where you compromised your faith and how it went. Looking back now, what would have gone differently if you followed God's timing?**
- **When a problem arises do you tend to focus on HOW it will get done or WHO will get it done for you?**
 - *God is so powerful and good that no matter how He does it we can rest in the fact that who is helping us will get the job done and do it right.*
- **How can you change from focusing on the HOW to focusing on the WHO?**

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Every morning this week wake up and thank God for who He is.

TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically that your group would grow in the strength necessary to say no to compromising in faith.

After prayer, be sure to remind them about MVMT and answer any questions they have.