

# Hagar & Ishmael's Lesson

Week of Sept. 23 - 29, 2019

## Introduction

Abraham and Sarah were chosen by God in Genesis 12 to take a huge adventure. This meant leaving their home and heading out to a whole new place of promise. However, the promise of a family seemed to be delayed. After nearly a decade they were still wandering and wondering and childless. What was God up to and when would He act? This week we learn what happens when we take God's promises into our own hands.

## Lesson

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; <sup>2</sup> so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. <sup>3</sup> So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. <sup>4</sup> He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. <sup>5</sup> Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."

<sup>6</sup> "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

11 The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for, she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

## Questions

1. How does the interaction between Sarai and Abram remind you of Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:8-13)
2. When have you been frustrated with God's timing and forged ahead with your own plans?
3. How does Sarai's use of power remind you of others who use their power over other people?
4. Who are the traditional descendants of Ishmael? How does history bare out the truth of his destiny as described by the angel? (Vs. 11-12)

5. God rescues Hagar in her destitution. What is the key to Hagar's relationship with God?
6. When has another person brought you to life when they saw you and you no longer felt invisible?

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, we thank you for the angels in our lives who have seen us saved us from our wilderness. Your son, Jesus, came to earth to rescue us from the oblivion caused by others and ourselves. Help each one of us be advocates for the downtrodden and exiled. In Jesus' name. Amen