

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

Warming up

1. How long are you willing to wait on God?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. We're looking at Genesis 16. This chapter is a story about a woman and a man who said they were "done". They were done waiting on God, and took matters into their own hands. Before we break apart this chapter, please read all of Genesis 16.
  - a. Verse one tells us that Sarai was in a desperate situation. What was she going through at a personal level?
  - b. Why is it tough to wait on God when circumstances are personally difficult?
  - c. What was Sarai's proposal to her husband? What did Abram do?
3. During Abram and Sarai's day, there was an old law of the land known as "The Code of Hammurabi". It stipulates that if the wife does not give birth in two years, she will purchase a slave woman for the husband. In the world of the ancient Near East, a slave woman could be seen as an incubator, a kind of womb-with-legs. According to custom, the child would be considered to be the child of Abram and Sarai, not Abram and Hagar. Question...according to the law of the land, Sarai didn't do anything wrong. Was it wrong in God's eyes?
  - a. Are there times when Christians should follow God's will and not the law of the land?
4. A popular quote is, "God helps those who help themselves." Is this always true? Why or why not?
5. Please read verses 4-6. What is Sarai feeling and who does she blame?
  - a. What is Abram's role in all this and why doesn't Abram stand up, and say "Sarai, you are wrong?"

6. Pastor Ruben said, "Results are not enough to justify what we do before God." You could say, "Well, they got a baby out of it, it must have been God's will." Just because you do it your way, doesn't mean it was God's plan. Do believe using Hagar to have a baby was part of God's plan?
  
7. Please read verses 7-8. It's the first time "An Angel of the Lord" appears. Do you think God cares about your personal circumstances and sees you?
  
8. Please read verses 8-12. Do you think it was hard for Hagar to hear that she needs to go back and submit to Sarai?
  - a. Why would God make her do that?
  
9. What does Hagar call God in verses 13 and 14?
  - a. Do you believe that God sees you?
  
10. Pastor Ruben said, "Your spiritual decisions today will be lived out by your children when you're gone. Your relationship with God has a bigger impact than your net worth." What changes do you need to make, what decisions do you need to make, so that those closest to you will have better consequences?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Just because the world says something is right, doesn't mean God says it's right.
- WAIT ON GOD
- Results are not enough to justify what we do before God.
- God sees you and God cares about you and your circumstances