

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Generations
God's Timing
Genesis 16



What happens when we get ahead of God?

1.

2.

3.

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Study Guide

For the week of January 19, 2025

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever felt like God was moving too slowly? What was the situation? What did you do about it? How did it work out?

2. Read Genesis 16:1-6 and 12:10-20. What nationality was the slave? How did she come to be in Abram's home? When Abram failed in his faith and went to Egypt, he acquired servants (Genesis 12:16). She was probably one of them. Abram was blessed while in Egypt but he has to pay the consequences of his actions in going to Egypt and not waiting on God. There are huge, far reaching consequences!! Because of Egypt there is Hagar, Ishmael, and some Arab nations today. Did you notice that God is strangely absent from the first six verses? Just like He was absent from the verses that describe the Egypt foray. No one had consulted God or sought His will. No one had called to remembrance His promise to provide a son. No one asked God to provide in the middle of a famine. Everyone used common sense and did what seemed right in his own eyes. What lessons can we learn from these first 6 verses?

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3. In verse two, Sarai said, "The Lord has kept me from having children." She was blaming God. Was that true/justifiable? What does that mean for us today? Why did Hagar begin to despise Sarai? What do you make of Sarai's statements in verse 5 concluding with "May the lord judge between you and me?" Was she right? Was it Abram's fault? In what ways was Abram responsible/at fault? Abram obviously failed in his relationship with his wife, what ways do we fail our spouses?

4. What character qualities do we see in Abram and Sarai in verses 1-6? Family life is the most difficult arena in which to be godly. "You see me as _____, but my spouse sees me as _____." Why?

5. Read Genesis 16:7-16. Who would Hagar's descendants eventually become? What are the implications/consequences for today? Why was Hagar, an Egyptian maidservant, so important to the Lord? Did the angel of the Lord give Hagar an encouraging message? In Verse 13 Hagar gives the Lord a name—"the God who sees me"--and she states that she has now seen the One who sees her. What comfort can we draw from this verse?

6. What personal needs has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study? How can we pray with you about those needs? Consider memorizing
2 Peter 3:8.

Pastor Jake Presley