

RUSHING AHEAD

MESSY FAITH
GENESIS 16
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Why is WAITING so hard for us?

What does God WANT me to do?

BLAMING is only a symptom of something wrong. It is never a solution.

Sarai and Abram's mistakes:

1. They failed by DOUBTING the promises of God.
2. Abram and Sarai failed each other by relying on their OWN PLAN.
3. Abram failed to test his wife's advice and counsel against GOD'S WORD.
4. Abram and Sarai failed to take their fears and concerns to the Lord and PRAY for God's wisdom and guidance.

God's people are often called to WAIT on those things closest to their desires and dreams.

We have an instinct to RUN and AVOID. However, that is rarely the solution God has in mind for us.

The name Ishmael means "GOD HEARS" or "God has heard."

El Roi—the God who SEES.

He is the One who sees us and KNOWS US!

"Beer-lahai-roi" means "well of the LIVING ONE who sees me."

There are some sins that will have LASTING consequences in this world, far beyond what we foresee.

God's plan is not THWARTED. It never is.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read through Genesis 16:1-6. Why do you think Sarai came up with this plan?
2. How do we know when a culturally allowable solution is not God's will for us?
3. What causes Sarai to start playing the blame game? Who does she blame? Why should blaming others be a red flag for us?
4. What's wrong with Abram's response? How did he go sideways?
5. Read Genesis 16:7-15. Why does "the angel of the Lord" ask Hagar the question in verse 8?
6. What is so difficult about the message of verse 9? Why did God ask her to do this? Can you think of an instance when you should have responded the same way?
7. How did God give encouragement to Hagar?
8. What is so significant about Hagar's response to the conversation she has at the well? What are the similarities with this event and the event in John 4?
9. What big picture messages about God and His plan for your life are found in Genesis 16?

TAKING IT HOME

Is there a situation in your life in which you are waiting on God? In light of Genesis 16, what do you think your next step should be?