



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Genesis 16

Message for the Week: Waiting on the Lord

Sunday, October 20

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What is the hardest thing that you have ever had to wait for?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Genesis 16](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

In an instant and fast paced world, how do you go about waiting? Waiting for other people? Waiting for things? Waiting on God's timing?

What does patience look like at home, at work, at school, or when you are hanging out with friends? Give some examples.

What do you notice about the promise the angel made to Hagar in verse 10? How does this promise compare the promise God made with Abraham in Genesis 15:5?

Have you ever tried to nudge along or help along God or God's plan?

In the story, Hagar came to the realization that God sees/saw her. Do you believe that God sees you? Why or why not? How does whether God sees us affect our ability to be patient?

How does waiting on God make you feel? What promises of God do you have a hard time waiting for? Why?

Take Away:

What is a main point or key message that you learned, understood, observed, or experienced that you are taking away with you from your group's reflections on the bible passage or your group's conversations today?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Who in your group needs prayer today? Who in your group will you pray for?

Pray this prayer together:

Father, thank you for your gracious care of me throughout my life. I confess that at times I have become impatient with what you are doing and try to make your plan unfold. I confess that at times I don't trust that this life will be okay. Help me to learn to trust you with everything, every day. AMEN

"Try It" - Putting our Faith into Action:

This week while you are going about your daily routines, whenever you encounter a line (at the store, at the bank, in your car, at school, Thursday pasta day, etc.), practice patience by choosing to get in the longest line. While standing in line, pay attention to what is happening around you while you wait. Be open to any people you might meet or conversations you might be able to have.

Galatians 5:22-26

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Genesis 16 - New International Version

Hagar and Ishmael

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ 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."

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

⁷ The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ 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,^[a]

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^[b] 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^[c] the One who sees me." ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi^[d]; 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.

Footnotes

- a. [Genesis 16:11](#) *Ishmael* means *God hears*.
- b. [Genesis 16:12](#) Or *live to the east / of*
- c. [Genesis 16:13](#) Or *seen the back of*
- d. [Genesis 16:14](#) *Beer Lahai Roi* means *well of the Living One who sees me*.

Genesis 16 - The Message

16 ¹⁻² Sarai, Abram's wife, hadn't yet produced a child.

She had an Egyptian maid named Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "God has not seen fit to let me have a child. Sleep with my maid. Maybe I can get a family from her." Abram agreed to do what Sarai said.

³⁻⁴ So Sarai, Abram's wife, took her Egyptian maid Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. Abram had been living ten years in Canaan when this took place. He slept with Hagar and she got pregnant. When Hagar learned she was pregnant, she looked down on her mistress.

⁵ Sarai told Abram, "It's all your fault that I'm suffering this abuse. I put my maid in bed with you and the minute she knows she's pregnant, she treats me like I'm nothing. May God decide which of us is right."

⁶ "You decide," said Abram. "Your maid is your business."

Sarai was abusive to Hagar and Hagar ran away.

⁷⁻⁸ An angel of God found her beside a spring in the desert; it was the spring on the road to Shur. He said, "Hagar, maid of Sarai, what are you doing here?"

She said, "I'm running away from Sarai my mistress."

⁹⁻¹² The angel of God said, "Go back to your mistress. Put up with her abuse." He continued, "I'm going to give you a big family, children past counting.

From this pregnancy, you'll get a son: Name him Ishmael;

for God heard you, God answered you.

He'll be a bucking bronco of a man,

a real fighter, fighting and being fought,

Always stirring up trouble,

always at odds with his family."

¹³ She answered God by name, praying to the God who spoke to her, "You're the God who sees me!

"Yes! He saw me; and then I saw him!"

¹⁴ That's how that desert spring got named "God-Alive-Sees-Me Spring." That spring is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Hagar gave Abram a son. Abram named him Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar gave him his son, Ishmael.