

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Genesis 16 & straight through, as you would read the chapters of any book.

Questions:

1. Was there anything in the passage read during the week or in the lecture (Friday morning) that was of particular interest, surprised you or caused you concern in the chapters this week?
2. Chapter 16 follows immediately after the Lord's Covenant to Abram that he will be given the land in which he stands and have offspring as numerous as the stars.
 - How long had Abram and Sarai been in the promised land?
 - About how old was Abram at this time?
 - Why did Sarai say she was unable to bear children?
3. Why do you think the promises of God seemed so far off? Do you blame Sarai for taking matters into her own hands and developing a plan?
4. How would you characterize Abram during this chapter? When before has a man taken his wife's advice and not remembered God's instruction?
5. At any time in Chapter 16 does anyone seek the Lord or ask for blessing or direction?
6. Neither Sarai or Abram ever refer to Hagar by name. Who sought & found Hagar, did he call her by name?

7. Have you ever been in a place (like Hagar) where you felt lost and outcast? How did you overcome that, or do you still feel there?

8. Do you believe that God **sees** you? Do you believe He seeks you out and calls you by name?

9. In chapter 17, the Lord appears to Abram gives him a new name and restates the covenant that Abraham will be fruitful and nations will be made from him. What was the physical sign that Abraham was to adopt to show his commitment to the covenant?

10. Why do you think the sign involved cutting and flesh? And why only the men?

11. In Chapter 17 verse 18 Abraham has idea – what is it?

12. In God's response to Abraham's idea of blessing Ishmael instead of a yet unborn son, he refers to Sarah as Abraham's wife, but back in chapter 16, verse 3 Sarai had given Hagar to be a wife to Abram.....do you think God considered Abram / Abraham to have two wives?

13. Why did God insist that Sarah would be the mother of the nations? (clue: remember God's definition of marriage and when the promise of offspring was made)

Focus verses: Psalm 2:6-11 is a reminder of the benefit of the wisdom of the Lord. Savour these wise verses and cherish the access we have to the Lord and His wisdom... in scripture and by his Holy Spirit. Write out verses 7 & 8.