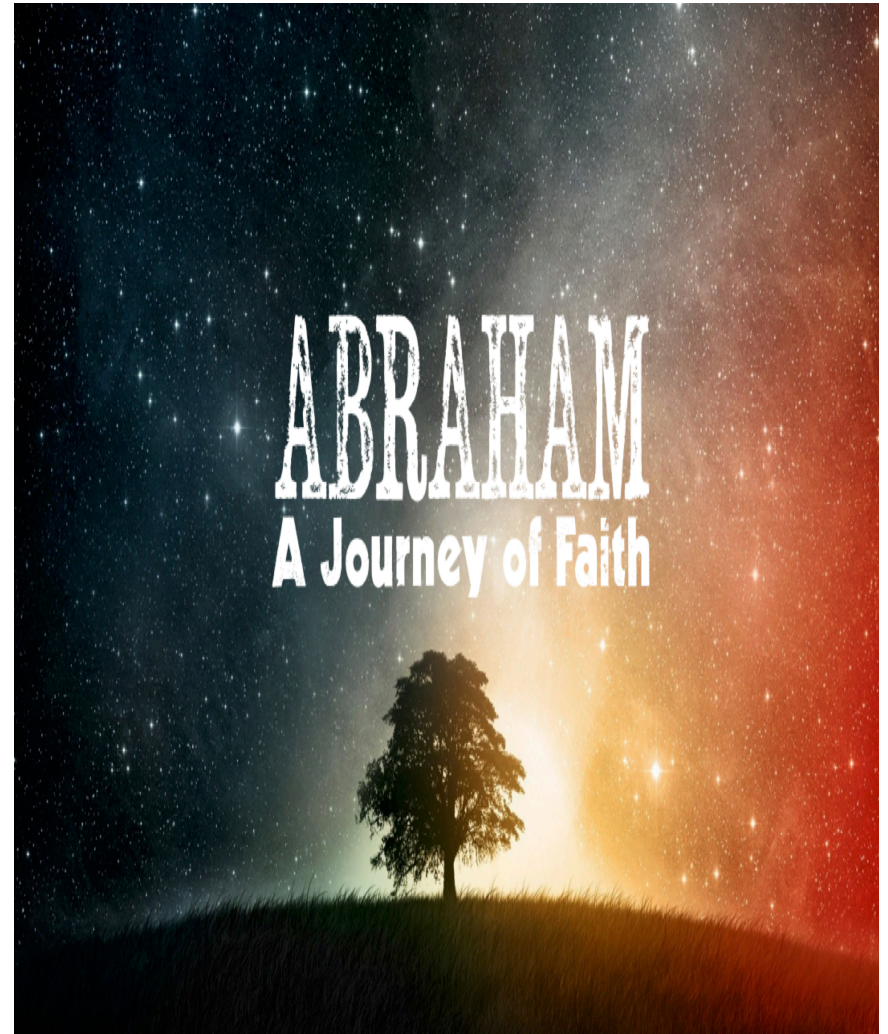


How to thrive during the waiting seasons:

- *Ask yourself what kind of story do I want to tell from this season?*
- *Stay Connected to Jesus and His Church*
- *Waiting is meant for our growth, so start growing!*
- *Waiting is not just about you, choose to serve others*
- *Remember God's Patience with you*
 - *Nehemiah 9:17 & Psalm 103:8*

Life Group/ Reflection Questions

- *Re-read Genesis 16:1-16: What is God speaking to you from this passage? What are you going to do about it?*
- *Have you ever been in a season of waiting on God? How did that season turn out? Did God show up? Or did you choose the DIY plan?*
- *How does waiting on God have the potential to affect your faith?*
- *Read Galatians 4:21-26: What does this passage say about the end results of waiting on God vs. the fleshly doing it yourself plan?*
- *Look at the three consequences of choosing to DIY rather than waiting on God. Which of these stands out to you personally?*
- *When we choose to DIY we get exactly what we plan for; a miracle-less result. What areas of your life are you doing it yourself that you need to stop and trust him to bring about a potential miraculous result?*
- *God in blessing Hagar demonstrates that he blesses the righteous and the unrighteous. How do you feel about this truth? How does this change the way you deal and relate with the world around you?*
- *Look over the 5 applications for how to thrive during a season of waiting. Which one do you need to put into action in your life?*



Sunday, Oct. 19th 2014
Abraham: Genesis 16:1-16
“Waiting on God”

Abraham
“Waiting on God”
Genesis 16:1-16

On every Journey of Faith we will experience seasons of waiting

Two options during the waiting seasons:

1. We wait on God

2. We DIY – Do it yourself

- If you are not currently waiting on God for something in your life, then you are doing it yourself.

3 Consequences of Doing it Yourself

Sarai and Hagar

16 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ²And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

1. DIY leads us to abandon faith

- Galatians 4:21-26

⁴And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!” ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

2. DIY always leads to dissatisfaction

- Our own plans will always come up short of God’s
 - Isaiah 64:8
- Dissatisfaction is toxic to every relationship you have

⁷The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” ⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” ¹⁰The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.”

Why does the Angel send Hagar back to Abram and Sarai?

- God desires us to deal with our mistakes rather than hiding them
- God Blesses the Righteous and the Unrighteous

¹¹And the angel of the LORD said to her,

*“Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the LORD has listened to your affliction.*

*¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone’s hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”*

¹³So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.” ¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

3. DIY has unforeseen consequences