

Group Discussion Guide

What most impacted you from Sunday's message and why?

1) Read Gen. 16:1-6. Both Abram and Sarai allowed their emotions to lead them into sin with Hagar that had last effects. Their season of waiting led to havoc rather than holiness.

- Discuss the following quote from Alistair Begg: "The life of faith is to be lived in the area of the will, not in the realm of the emotions. When it comes to faith, our emotions must capitulate to our wills."
- Psalm 130:5 says, *"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope."*
 - Very practically, what does it mean to wait for the Lord with your "whole being"?
 - How do we "put our hope in his word" during times of waiting, uncertainty, or trouble? What does that mean in the real world?

2) God returns to Abram in Gen. 17 and reestablishes his covenant with him after the disastrous episode with Hagar recorded in chapter 16.

- Share a time when God redeemed a situation, decision, or issue in your life that you thought was too far gone—when God brought "beauty from ashes."
- Is there a person, issue, or circumstance in your life right now that feels irredeemable? If so, would you be willing to share with the group and let someone pray for you...?

3) Read Gen. 22:1-14 (maybe have a couple of group members split the passage), read it slowly and thoughtfully.

- What part of the account most impacts you? Is there a word or phrase that jumps out at you?
- Share all the ways that this event on a mountain in the region of Moriah, where the Temple would eventually be built and Jesus would be crucified, points forward to Jesus and God's work of redemption through his Son.