



**Concord Baptist
Church**









GENESIS 16



Small Group
Guide



Small Group Guide: God's Mission and Our Response

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Opening Prayer



The opening prayer is a way for us to invite God into our time together, center our hearts on Him, and prepare ourselves for the discussions ahead. This is an opportunity to thank God for His presence, ask for His guidance and wisdom, and open our hearts to what He wants to teach us.

Feel free to keep your prayer simple and conversational, as if you're talking directly to a close friend. If you're unsure what to say, focus on gratitude, ask for clarity and connection, and trust that God hears your heart.

Helpful Prayer Prompt:

- Thank God for bringing the group together and the opportunity to grow in faith.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your conversations.
- Ask for open hearts, wisdom, and encouragement for each person in the group.

Scripture Reading



Genesis 16

In this powerful message, we delve into the story of Abram and Sarai from Genesis 16, exploring the dangers of getting ahead of God's plan. We're reminded that our impatience and desire to control outcomes can lead us astray from God's perfect timing. The key lesson here is the importance of abiding in Christ - staying connected to Him in all aspects of our lives. Just as Abram and Sarai's attempt to 'help' God's promise backfired, we too can cause strife and complications when we try to force things in our own strength.

Yet, even in our failures, we see God's sovereignty and grace. The touching moment when Hagar encounters 'El Roi' - the God who sees - reminds us that no matter how far we've strayed, God sees us, loves us, and can work through any situation. This message challenges us to examine our own lives: Are we truly abiding in Christ, or are we running ahead, lagging behind, or veering sideways from God's path?





Key Takeaways

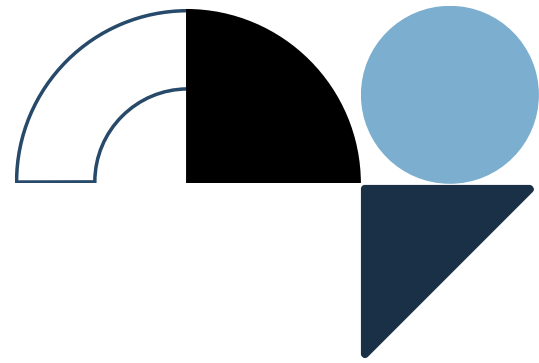
God's mission is to redeem the lost and sanctify the saved for His glory.

We are often tempted to get ahead of God, sideways from God, or lag behind God.

Getting ahead of God can cause strife in our lives and relationships.

God is sovereign and can work in any situation to fulfill His mission.

Abiding in Christ is essential for living out God's mission.



Discussion Questions

1. The sermon mentions the temptation to "get ahead of God."
Can you share an experience where you felt you were trying to force God's timing or plan?
2. How does our culture sometimes encourage us to act independently of God's will? What are some examples?
3. The story of Abram, Sarai, and Hagar demonstrates how getting ahead of God can cause strife. How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
4. The sermon emphasizes that God sees us in our lowest moments. How does this truth impact your view of God and your relationship with Him?
5. What does it mean to you to "abide in Christ"? What are some practical ways we can do this in our daily lives?
6. The pastor mentions that we "cannot do anything without" Christ. How does this challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?
7. How can we balance actively pursuing God's mission while also waiting on His timing and direction?





Practical Applications

1. Scripture Study: Commit to reading and meditating on John 15:4-6 this week, reflecting on what it means to abide in Christ.
2. Prayer Journal: Start a prayer journal to document your conversations with God and how you see Him working in your life.
3. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to check in regularly about how you're abiding in Christ and avoiding the temptation to get ahead of God.
4. Mission Focus: Identify one way you can participate in God's mission of redeeming the lost or discipling believers this week.
5. Self-Reflection: Take time to honestly assess if you're getting ahead of, sideways from, or lagging behind God in any area of your life. Bring these areas to God in prayer.



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Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together to seek You and grow in faith. Help us to abide in You this week, staying connected to Your truth and trusting in Your perfect timing. Give us wisdom to recognize when we are getting ahead of You or straying from Your path, and strengthen us to walk in step with Your Spirit. May we be faithful in prayer, accountable to one another, and active in Your mission, bringing glory to Your name.

Amen.