



## Welcome + Opening Prayer

### Genesis 16:1-13; 21:14-21

See passage printed on the back of this page.

#### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*What must we not be without?*

## Explore + Apply

1. Who does Sarah blame for the pain of her barrenness in verse 2? How does Sarah respond in verse 5 when her plan to override God's provision backfires? When is a time you have seen your own humiliation or pain come out as anger? Does anger or despair seem easier to you than grieving? What do you need to grieve to God that you are instead blaming Him for or blaming other for?
2. For Sarah, the end of her barrenness became a *must* for her that won out over God's promise to her. Similarly, what is a *must* for you? About what has your family or subculture or favorite media source told you that 'you are nothing' without?
3. How do you think God is granting you permission to put down your 'barrenness' — or whatever track record that still defines you or whoever you think you should be by now or whatever was withheld from you?

#### PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.*

## Pray

- ▶ Reflect on God's faithfulness in His promises to Abraham and Sarah and to us in Christ, despite that we do not deserve His faithfulness nor could have earned it.
- ▶ Pray and listen: What do you need to grieve to God that you are instead blaming Him for or blaming other for?
- ▶ Pray "Thy Kingdom come" here in West Seattle, in the U.S. and around the world specifically as God meets us in our greatest pain and humiliation. May we and more of our neighbors know the freedom Christ that brings by taking our humiliation and pain upon Himself.

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

#### GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*Ash Wednesday - Mar 6  
8-9a or 7-9p @ the Loft  
Lent Begins*

*Next HG- Mar 10*

## Genesis 16:1-13; 21:14-21

<sup>16:1</sup> Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. <sup>2</sup> And 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. <sup>3</sup> So, 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. <sup>4</sup> And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. <sup>5</sup> And 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!" <sup>6</sup> But 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.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup> And 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." <sup>9</sup> The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." <sup>10</sup> The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." <sup>11</sup> And 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>13</sup> So 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."

<sup>21:14</sup> Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation." <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup> And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.