



Rescued - Genesis 16-17

Week Ten: Out of the Wilderness

1. We end up in the wilderness when we make

2. When we choose the wilderness other people will

3. God's grace _____ us out of the wilderness
4. There is _____ for us _____ the wilderness

Have you been wondering what Sarai's been up to so far in the story of Abram? Well we're about to find out in this week's study.

We're also going to meet Hagar in what is one of my favorite and most tragic stories in the Bible. I guess I'm a sucker for tragedy!

I hope you're ready for this week in God's word. I hope you're finding your love for Him growing through the study of His word!



Day One: The Mrs. and The Maid

Some things people do just don't make any sense. Today's focus will be on one such episode.

Poor Sarai can't have a baby. She's driven to despair, enough to concoct the crazy plan we're about to read in Genesis 16:1-6.

Pray for wisdom as you begin today's journey!

Exploring the Text

- 1.** How long had Abram and Sarai waited so far for God to deliver on His promise for a son?

- 2.** What plan did Sarai come up with to give Abram a son?

3. What part did Hagar have in the plan?

4. How did Hagar react after getting pregnant with Abram?

5. Did Sarai regret her decision to help God out in providing Abram with an heir? How can you tell?

6. How did Sarai treat Hagar as a result of the unfolding family drama?

did you know

Faith deals in impracticalities and impossibilities.

Do you have any rivers that you think are uncrossable?

Remember that nothing is impossible with God.



Day Two: The Wilderness

Let's pick up the family drama with Hagar running away from home. Who can blame her? My heart goes out to her, yet we can learn much from her this week.

Read Genesis 16:6-16.

Exploring the Text

1. Each of the actors in our drama clearly made mistakes. Describe how Abram, Sarai, and Hagar messed up in our story.
2. Who seems to have suffered the most?
3. Where does Hagar escape to?

4. Who finds Hagar in the wilderness?

5. What question does the angel of the Lord ask Hagar in vs.8?

prayer

God reaches for us
even in our
darkest
wilderness.
His grace extends
to us even still.

6. What does the angel of the Lord instruct Hagar in vs.9? Would this be easy for her?



Day Three: The God of Seeing

I love this passage on Hagar so much that we're going to spend another day reflecting on this poor woman! I'm caught somewhere between sympathy for her and frustration with Abram and Sarai, but mostly I'm amazed that God will still redeem this impossible situation for His glory!

Read Genesis 16:1-16 again.

Exploring the Text

1. We left off yesterday with the Lord asking Hagar to return and submit to Sarai, the very woman who had turned on her to begin with! What promise does God give Hagar to encourage her as she obeyed?
2. What name is given to Hagar and Abram's son?
3. What does God tell Hagar about the kind of guy Ishmael would be?

4. How does Hagar respond to God? What name does she give God?

definition

5. Beerlahairoi is what Hagar calls the well she was sitting by. Find the meaning of that word in your study Bible.

Ishmael -
God hears.

Beer-lahai-roi -
the well of the
living One who
seems me.

6. How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?

7. Hagar's child Ishmael was the father of the Arab people. Sarai's child Isaac was the father of the Israeli people. What were the long term results of Sarai taking the situation in her own hands?



Day Four: Circumcision

Wow, wow, wow! We've read of the mess Sarai made and the effect that her manipulation had on the whole family. We've seen Hagar in her darkest hour, and we've seen her rise from the ashes to go back home. We've seen God patient and pursuing, rescuing Hagar in the wilderness, yet still the promise keeper, unwavering in His faithfulness towards Abram.

I love the book of Genesis, don't you? I can't tell you how often in my life I've found myself in my own wilderness, and still God has reached out to me, willing and wanting to rescue me. I love Him and I love His grace. Don't you?

Let's read Genesis 17:1-14 today.

Exploring the Text

1. How many years have passed between Genesis 16 and 17?
2. Why do you think God restates his promise to Abram at this point in time?

3. Is Abram's response to the Lord different this time than the first 2 times God gave him this promise?

verse

Galatians 6:14-15

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

4. In vs.1-8 what is significant about the change in the patriarch's name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many)?

5. What instruction does God give Abraham as an outward sign of the covenant?

6. Was Abraham forced to enter into this covenant?



Day Five: Faith and Works

In the first half of Genesis 17, God reaffirms to Abraham his covenant. He also introduces circumcision as a sign of the covenant.

God never forced Abraham to get circumcised, but today we will see how Abraham proved his faith through his actions.

We learn much from Abraham about faith. I hope you're taking notes! Abraham wasn't perfect by any means, but he believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. Aren't you relieved Abraham wasn't perfect?

Today we will finish reading Genesis 17:15-27.

Exploring the Text

1. In vs.15, God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Can you find what the meaning of Sarah is?

2. How does God's changing Sarah's name also reflect the depth of His grace?

3. What does God promise to give Abraham through Sarah? What does God's promise to Sarah tell you about God's character as a promise keeper?

4. How old was Abraham when God promises him a son?

song

5. Why does Abraham bring up Ishmael and how does God respond to Abraham's line of thinking?

Amazing grace
how sweet the
sound
that saved a
wretch like me.
I once was lost but
now am found
Was blind but
now I see!

6. In vs.22, we see Abraham's response to God's command for circumcision. What do you think it cost Abraham to go through the circumcision of every male in his house?

