

## Building Faith | Genesis 16 & 21:1-14

2022 Summer #3- June 12th, 2022

### My Story Questions

*These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.*

- 1) What is your birth order? How has that impacted your life?
- 2) What is something that you've had to learn through experience?

### Study Questions

*These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.*

#### **Read Genesis 16, Genesis 21:1-14**

- 1) Faith is born out of experience over time. How do you see the faith of Abram, Sarai, and Hagar grow over time?
- 2) How has your faith grown over the past year or 3 or 5?
- 3) Abram & Sarai waited and then took action on God's promise. How have you grown impatient in waiting on God in your past?
- 4) What have you learned in waiting for God to act?
- 5) How did following a "cultural norm" lead to trouble for Abram & Sarai? What cultural norms might be leading you into trouble?
- 6) What might God have said if they had prayed first?
- 7) God goes after Hagar and instructs her to do something we might consider unthinkable. How does God rescue her and what does he promise her?
- 8) How has Jesus helped you take courageous actions in the past?

#### **Read Galatians 4:21-31**

- 9) How does Paul use the story of Sarah and Hagar to explain the New Covenant we have in Christ?
- 10) What does it mean to embrace the freedom we have in Christ?
- 11) How does Paul's use of these biblical characters reinforce the need to understand all of God's story?
- 12) Read Philippians 2:12 and ask God, "How can I put my 'salvation' into motion today?"

#### **Read Hebrews 11:8-16**

- 13) Abraham & Sarah learned that faith is a "long game" not a sprint. What was his attitude according to Hebrews 11:16?
- 14) How could this same view provide hope in your waiting?
- 15) How does the practice of waiting on God actually enable more intimacy with Him? Ask God, "Is being in your presence my ultimate goal or am I just after answers to prayer?"

### Responding to Jesus

*Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.*

- 1) Lord, "What are you teaching me right now about trusting you?"
- 2) Lord, "Where are you asking me to wait?"
- 3) Lord, "Where are you asking me to 'act' (even if I don't want to)?"