

Going It Alone

Abraham: Hearing God's Call – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – July 29, 2018

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Genesis 15:5-6 (ESV) And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

1. Don't _____ God's promise

Genesis 16:1 (ESV) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.

1A. Don't _____ your own plan

Genesis 16:2a (ESV) 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."

1B. Don't give in to _____

Genesis 16:2b-4a (ESV) And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 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. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.

1C. Disobedience _____ relationships

Genesis 16:4b-6 (ESV) And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. 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!" 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.

2. God _____ about everyone

Genesis 16:7-8 (ESV) The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 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."

2A. God has a _____ for everyone

Genesis 16:9-11 (ESV) The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." 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.

2B. Each person must _____ God's plan

Genesis 16:15-16 (ESV) And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

2C. Disobedience affects _____

Genesis 16:12 (ESV) 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."

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading & prayer.
 - Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
 - Invite a friend for our series **Abraham: Hearing God's Call** next Sunday.
 - How will I obey God's Word this week? _____
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Going It Alone Study Guide

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Intro. Do you think it was difficult for Abram to believe God's promise (Genesis 15:5-6)? Why or why not?

Why is faith necessary for a promise to be fulfilled in your life (Hebrews 11:6, 11)?

What are some specific ways that the Holy Spirit could apply the general promise of Proverbs 3:5-6 to a person's life?

What are some common obstacles to having faith to believe God's promises?

1A. What doubts may Sarai and Abram have had ten years after God's promise had been given, yet with no children (Genesis 16:1)?

1B. Why did Sarai blame God and devise her own plan (Genesis 16:2a)?

1C. What are the parallels between Sarai's temptation of Abram in Genesis 16:2b-4a and Eve's temptation of Adam in Genesis 3:6, 17?

1D. What were the consequences of going it alone to the household of Abram (Genesis 16:4b-6)?

1E. What promise(s) are you believing God for in your life? How can you encourage someone else to believe God's promises?

2A. Why did the angel of the Lord find and speak to Hagar (Genesis 16:7-8, see parallel in Genesis 3:8-9)?

2B. How had Hagar sinned against Sarai (Genesis 16:9-11, 4b)?

2C. Why did God bless Hagar after she returned and submitted to Sarai and Abram (Genesis 16:9-11, 12:3)?

2D. What does the angel's prophesy about Ishmael tell you about him and his descendant's relationship with God's people (Genesis 16:12, 25:17-18)?

2E. The founder of Islam, Muhammed, claims to be a direct descendant of Ishmael and considers him a prophet. How does the prophesy speak to the nature of modern Islam (Genesis 16:12)?

2F. What does this story tell us about the generational consequences of following our own plans rather than God's?