

Nov 15 | Sunday
The God Who Sees
Genesis 16:1-16



16 | Mon – Promises, promises | Read Gen. 16:1-3

Though God had promised Abraham a son, ten years have passed. Abraham is now 85 and Sarah is 75. In keeping with a cultural custom of the times, Sarah decided to give her maidservant Hagar to Abraham hoping to have a child through their union. Why did she do something so drastic? Where have you been waiting “10 years” for God to fulfill a promise? What helps you avoid making questionable decisions during the wait?

17 | Tue – Betrayed | Read Gen. 16:4-5

Quite possibly Sarah and Hagar had become close friends over the years. Otherwise it seems unlikely that Sarah would have trusted her husband to Hagar. After Hagar became pregnant, she begins ‘to despise’ Sarah. Have you ever felt betrayed by someone you thought was your friend? How did you handle that situation? In retrospect, would you have done anything differently?

18 | Wed – Overwhelmed | Read Genesis 16:6

The plan backfired. Knowing she was pregnant, Hagar’s attitude changed toward Sarah. This change caused Sarah such pain that she retaliated by mistreating Hagar. When the situation became more than she could bear, Hagar ran away. Sometimes life can seem overwhelming and we lose hope. Is there something you are feeling tempted to run away from because it seems beyond your ability to cope?

19 | Thu – Not alone | Read Genesis 16:7-8

Hagar ran away, pregnant and alone, into a place where she would likely not survive. This gives us a picture of how desperate she was. Have you ever gone through a time when you felt that alone? Yet, she was not. God came looking for her, called her by name, and then asked her two very important questions: “Hagar, where have you come from, and where are you going?” If asked, how would you answer those two questions?

20 | Fri – Choices | Read Genesis 16:8-12

Hagar was honest about where she had come from, but she had no answer to the second question. When God told her to go back to Sarah, she had a choice. Why do you think she was willing to return to that difficult situation? Did it have anything to do with the promise God made in verses 10-11?

21 | Sat – Changed | Read Genesis 16:13-16

Hagar had the confidence to go back because of this encounter with “the God who sees me.” Then she added, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” When her son was born, he was named Ishmael meaning “God hears.” Every time she spoke her son’s name, it was a reminder that hers was a personal God. Do you know God as the One who sees (and loves) you? What barriers might be holding you back from fully trusting Him?

November 22 | Sun – Whispers in the Wilderness | Read 1 Kings 19



Hastings United Methodist Church