

Hagar And Ishmael

Genesis 16

MEMORY VERSE

GENESIS 16:13

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many small prizes (pencils, stickers, erasers, etc.) as the number of children in your class, and a nicely wrapped box with something worthless inside it, like a rock. Have the box prepared before class.

Masking tape and a balloon.

Construction paper, markers or crayons, and scissors.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Let's Make a Deal

Pass out small prizes (pencils, stickers, erasers, etc.) to each student. After everyone has been given a prize tell them that you want to make a trade. Bring out a nicely wrapped box with something worthless inside it, like a rock, and see if any one will trade their small prize for the gift.

If a student does trade, have them open it to discover the "dud" prize. Explain to the class that God gives us good gifts; He gives us good promises. We need to trust Him for our needs and not take matters into our own hands. When a good thing (like a prize) is traded for a bad thing (a wrapped rock), we are sad and dissatisfied. God wants us to be satisfied with what He has given us. You may return the original prize to the child who received the rock. **God's way is best!**

LESSON TIME!

The Lord is always with us. He sees and hears all that we do. He loves us so much and has special plans for our lives. When we trust in Him, He can accomplish the purposes for which He has created us. His way is always best and when we follow His plans for our lives, He can do great things through us.

If, rather than trusting God, we take matters into our own hands, it can have disastrous results. We will not be able to experience the good things God has for us; instead, we will suffer the consequences of our sin. **God's way is best!**

Today we are going to look at the story of a man full of faith who had a lapse (failure) of faith. He wondered *how* God would fulfill His promise. He decided not to wait on the Lord to do what He said, but to take matters into his own hands. It ended up causing a lot of problems for his family. Let's look at what happened...

GENESIS 16:1-2

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

God had promised both Abram and Sarai children in His timing. God alone can fulfill the promises He gives to us. He alone is wise and knows what is right and best for us. If we cling to His Word, we will never be disappointed. He is always faithful. Yet Sarai doubted the Lord's plan for her life and convinced Abram that they must try to do things in their own strength rather than rely on their Maker.

When we do things in human strength instead of allowing God to rule, we will be robbed of the great things He wants to do in us. At the same time, we will create unnecessary hardships and trials in our lives. **God's way is best!**

Out of Bounds

Tape a rectangle on your floor about 3'x10' with masking tape. Divide your class into two teams. Have each team line up on opposite sides of the rectangle and take turns tossing the balloon back and forth. If a child steps out of the rectangle, he is out and must go to the end of his line.

After each child has a chance (or as long as time allows), explain that in order to stay in the game, each student had to stay within bounds. When we step out of the bounds that the Lord gives us, we need a "time out" to realign ourselves with God's plan and purpose for us. **God's way is best!**

GENESIS 16:3-4

Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

When we cease to trust in God, we can fall into sin; and sin always has consequences. Hagar conceived an heir while Sarai remained barren. Pride reigned in Hagar; jealousy reigned in Sarai. Hagar, Sarai, and Abraham were wronged in this ungodly plan. The results were much hurt and sorrow. Even though it was Sarai's idea, she was angry with Abram for allowing it to happen. Abram would suffer the consequences for making this choice. He should

have waited on the Lord to fulfill His plan. God has given a special responsibility to the husband and father in the home to care for his family and to make wise choices in leading his family.

When we strive to accomplish good things apart from God's guidance, our lives become chaos and full of pain. Good can only come from the perfect plan the Lord has for each one of our lives. We must let God rule in our lives. **God's way is best!**

GENESIS 16:5-6

Then Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me."

So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

When we step out of God's plan, disastrous results occur. Sarai blamed Abram for her faults; and he, in turn, gave Hagar back to her. Sarai, wrongfully, treated her slave with harshness. Hagar fled. The entire family was turned upside down as a result of their disobedience and lack of faith.

Our lives and families can be turned upside down when we do not obey and wait upon the Lord. When we choose to step out of the safety of obedience, we must live with unnecessary hardships. How much better it is to wait and trust on the Lord who alone is wise and has good plans for our lives! How much better it is to walk trusting in Him and His unending love knowing He does all things well! How much better it is to obey! **God's way is best!**

GENESIS 16:7-8

Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

How sweet it is to know that God, the Creator of the universe, cares so intently about each one of us. God's love for man is so great that Jesus Himself, the Angel of the Lord, came and ministered to a runaway Egyptian slave girl in the wilderness. God loves us and desires to take care of us! Even when we are in the middle of suffering and pain brought on by our own actions, the Lord still comes to find us and minister to us. What a great picture of grace! Abram, Sarai, and Hagar made a wrong choice; but God knew what was happening. In His love, He came to Hagar to relieve her suffering.

What a great, sweet God we have who sent Jesus to die for us while we were yet sinners! Let us put our trust in the unending love of our Heavenly Father. May we listen to His call and follow Him.

GENESIS 16:9-12

So the Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has heard your affliction."

“He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”

The Lord tells Hagar to be obedient and return to Sarai. He told her He would be there for her and gave her a great promise. He told her He would multiply her descendants exceedingly. When we return our lives to the Lord and submit ourselves to Him, He bestow upon ours lives the blessings He desires.

God heard Hagar as He hears each one of our cries. God gave Hagar the name for her child: Ishmael which means “God Hears.” Hagar would long be reminded that God heard her and blessed her out of His love. Ishmael would be a wild man causing us to see the consequences of human efforts instead of God's ways. The fruits of our own hands cannot be blessed. God's way alone is blessed, because He knows what is right and truly best for us.

GENESIS 16:13-16

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Hagar obeyed God and returned to Abram and Sarai. Hagar knew the Lord was with her, and He saw her affliction. We can all be encouraged by the fact that God is always with us. He sees everything that happens to us. He knows our hurts and our joys.

If, as Hagar did, we cry out to God, He will reveal Himself to us. He longs to meet our needs and take care of us. He loves us so much and desires for us to trust in Him. Let us give our lives to Him in obedience, so we can experience His presence and blessings in our lives. **God's way is best!**

Watch Your Step

Have your students cut out foot-shapes (either pre-drawn or traced from their own) from construction paper. When they have finished, have them decorate them with crayons or markers and write the day's memory verse.

Remind them that God wants us to follow after Him and walk the path He has for us. If we take matters into our own hands, it will have disastrous results. If we trust Him and keep from straying, God will work all things together for good in our lives.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust the Lord and wait on Him for our needs. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.