

Hagar and IshmaelSeptember 11-17, 2011

PRAYER: Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

OPENER: When you were a kid, what's something you did that got you into big trouble? Growing up, who "wore the pants" in your family: Mom? Dad? Kids? Or was decision-making mutual?

Though God had promised Abram a son, Abram and Sarai were now 85 and 75 years old respectively. In this story, they decided to practice a common custom of their time in order to have a child.

Read: Genesis 16:1-16

DISCUSS:

What did Sarai accuse the LORD of in verse 2? What do you think drove Sarai to this course of action?

After that accusation, what did Sarai propose to Abram?

What kind of argument did Abram give Sarai?

How would you describe the communication between Sarai and Abram?

From verses 4 & 5, how would you describe behavior that "despises"?

How did God intervene in this story? Why did the Lord give Hagar direction, hope and promise?

How could Abraham have avoided this situation?

What promises of God do we "get ahead of" or "rush past"?

In what ways can we wait on God?

PLAN for ACTION:

What do you feel is the central lesson in this passage?

In what area of your life are you most tempted to be impatient?

How can this group pray for you this week?

To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html