LIFE UNDER THE TENT



INTRODUCTION

Genesis chapter 16 contains allusions to other important passages in Genesis; by bringing the events of Hagar and Abram into the larger context of these other passages, Moses enlarges the reference of the story beyond Abram and Hagar as individuals and ties their actions to the themes of the book as a whole.

DISCUSSION

Describe a time you did not trust God to be God, and took matters into your own hands.

EXPLANATION

Read Proverbs 12:1. Do you view being called out on sin a blessing? Who from this story do you relate with the most? Sarai, Hagar, or Abram? Have you ever felt like Jesus was waiting to bring hope till the last second? What did you learn from this experience?

APPLICATION

How have you acted like Sarai and shifted the blame for sin onto someone or something else?

God is a God who sees us. How has that fact brought hope into your life? Read Psalms 9:18. What are some ways God has never forgotten about you?

MISSION

How can living as a people of hope show our love for Christ?

We see that Hagar and Abram both live with a hope in God, and because of this, Ishmael is taught that same kind of hope. How can we as people of hope bring hope to those around us?

LIFE UNDER THE TENT Genesis 16

| Psalm 9:18 | |
|-----------------|--|
| Genesis 16:1-16 | |
| Ephesians 5:25 | |
| Proverbs 12:1 | |
| Luke 19:10 | |
| Romans 5:8 | |
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Week 27 Family & Group Discussion Week 27 Notes & Scripture



Week 27 SERMON OUTLINE

LIFE UNDER THE TENT

Psalm 9:18 "But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish."

Genesis chapter 16 contains allusions to other important passages in Genesis; by bringing the events of Hagar and Abram into the larger context of these other passages, Moses enlarges the reference of the story beyond Abram and Hagar as individuals and ties their actions to the themes of the book as a whole.

- The first sign of an intention allusion is at the beginning of the narrative, that Hagar was an "Egyptian" maidservant of Sarai. Only at the beginning of the story is Hagar identified as an "Egyptian maidservant;" throughout the remainder of the story she is known only by name or as the "servant."
- The second reference to Hagar as "the Egyptian" is different from the first. In verse 3 "the Egyptian" serves as a reminder of where Hagar came from.

The account of Genesis 16 is also very closely related (using the Hebrew verbs) with the fall of man.

| 16:2a: Sarai said to Abram | 3:2 the woman said to |
|--|--|
| 16:2 And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. | 3:17 you have listened to the voice of your wife |
| 16:3 Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian | 3:6 she took of its fruit |
| 16:3 and gave her to Abram her husband | 3:6 she also gave some to her husband |

The wording is so similar that Moses does not want his readers to miss "the fall."

Sarai gets fed up with not having the promised baby that she takes matters into her own hands. She hatches a plan for her husband and Hagar (her maid) to make a baby and to adopt the child herself. She doesn't trust God to fulfill His promises. Sarai's scheme to make a baby in this way was socially acceptable in this culture, but Moses shows his clear disapproval by associating her with eve. The importance of Hagar, being an Egyptian, is that it means they picked Hagar up when they were in Egypt, at time of unbelief on Abraham's part. The test points us to the fact that Sarai is going to do the same thing Abraham did, namely sin, by not trusting in the promises of God.

When God's people sin, we have to live with the repercussions of it. Yes, we are forgiven, but that doesn't mean the repercussions of our sin vanish. Jesus does forgive our sin, but (as in this case) if someone commits sexual immorality and gets pregnant, there are repercussions that go along with it; just as Abraham picked up slaves while sinning in Egypt and now must live with the repercussions.

2 Timothy 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

The painful part of this chapter is Abraham doesn't ever say "NO" to sin. His wife has a crazy idea, and we see sin from his past present itself in a new way. We are called to flee from sin, yet Abraham flirts with it.

This problem of sin continues to present itself while Abraham tries to run from it, but wherever he goes, sin is also there. He may even think that he has overcome his own sin because it's been years since his he has been in Egypt; yet, 10 years later it presents itself in a new way.

In Genesis 4 Cain is told that sin is crouching at his door, and this truth is still true even in our day. There will be temptation, there will be encouragement from others to do wrong, and there will be sin; the questing is, "will we give in to it?"

Because of Abraham and Sarai's sin Hagar tries to leave and return to her people. In her despair God shows up and brings hope, healing, and good to an otherwise awful situation. God, through His grace, brings hope to this broken family. God, in all His goodness, steps down from heaven, sees them, and brings hope.

Jesus has brought hope to us as well; He has come down from heaven as a man, battled with sin, and won! He took our sin upon Himself and died bringing hope to broken people like us. We must be a people who continue to have hope in Jesus and trust Him to make good on His promises, knowing that He has conquered Satan, sin, and death.