

# Genesis: God and the Originals

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

## Abram and Sarai Use Hagar (16:1-6)

### Vv. 1-3

1. What is the issue at the beginning of chapter 16? And should it be an issue (consider the emotional and spiritual side)?
2. What is the solution to the problem? Who comes up with it? Who acquiesces to it? Who doesn't get a say presumably and why?

BONUS: What questions go unanswered or ambiguities go unsolved in these first three verses?

Verse 3 is the “\_\_\_\_\_” in Jewish thought that allowed for a man to \_\_\_\_\_ after ten years if she could \_\_\_\_\_.

### Vv. 4-6

3. What problem arises in verse 4 from Hagar becoming pregnant with Abram's child and why? And verse 5 and why? And verse 6 and why?

BONUS: How would you describe Sarai's spirituality in v. 2 and at the end v. 5? How about Abraham's leadership skills in these first six verses?

BONUS: Knowing 15:13 and what happens at the beginning of the book of Exodus, how is Sarai's treatment of Hagar in v. 6 ironic? And Hagar's response? How is it ironic today?

## The Angel(?) of the Lord (16:7-12)

### Vv. 7-9

4. Where is Hagar going, who is she going with, and who meets her?

The word translated “angel” is from the Hebrew verb “melaka” meaning “\_\_\_\_\_.” Whoever this being is, it is someone who \_\_\_\_\_.

BONUS: Is it fair that the angel of the Lord makes Hagar go back and submit to an abusive relationship?

### **Vv. 10-12**

5. What does the angel promise Hagar in these verses? How does it relate to Abram and his descendants?

“Ishma-el” means “\_\_\_\_\_.”

6. Who is considered to be the descendants of Ishmael today? Are they part of the “promise” to Abraham? How is the description of Ishmael playing out today?

BONUS:What can we know about the angel of the Lord from these verses?

### **The God Who Sees (16:13-16)**

7. What does Hagar name God in these verses? And how is that ironic considering Abram and Sarai never even speak her name?

BONUS:Who goes unmentioned in the final verses of chapter 16?

### **Concluding Question:**

Hagar is special because her story includes a lot of “firsts” or “only’s.” Can you come up with any?

### **Quote of the Day:**

*Women who experience “slavery, poverty, ethnicity, sexual and economic exploitation, surrogacy, rape, domestic violence, homelessness, motherhood, single-parenting and radical encounters with God” have been able to find themselves in Hagar’s story.*

- John Goldingay quoting D. S. Williams from *Sisters in the Wilderness*