



**Family
Conversation
Guide**

06.12.2022

June Theme: Walk By Faith.

Monthly Memory Verse:

“And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”

- **Genesis 15:6** (ESV)

Monthly Challenge Verse:

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

- **1 Timothy 4:12** (NIV)

Week of June 12th

Main Idea: Trust God’s timing.

**Life Application:
Wait upon the Lord.**

Parents, After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Use [The Action Bible \(Pages 53-54\)](#) as you lead your kids, and also use your own Bible ([Genesis 16](#)) to read through some of the verses listed that will help them better understand.

1. Review from last week, [Genesis 15](#):

What was Abram impatient about? (God had promised a son to Abram, but he and Sarai were now old and they still have not had children.) **How did God reassure Abram?** (God took Abram outside and showed him the stars in the sky. He promised Abram would have even more descendants than stars in the sky!) **What else was Abram upset about?** (God had also promised them possession of the land he had led them to, and that also had not happened.) **What did God do?** (He caused Abram to go into a deep sleep and showed him that one day his descendants would take possession of the land He had promised.) **Did Abram believe and have faith that God would keep His promises?** (Yes- and Abram's faith pleased God.)

2. **Have you ever had to wait for something you wanted to happen? Something you feel that God had promised you?** For some people, it's a home, a special vacation, a solution to a difficult problem, or even winning at something you have worked hard for. **What have you had to wait for?** (Discuss).
3. For couples who desire to have a child, waiting can be especially difficult. Yet we are taught to wait for God's timing, and have faith that God knows what is best for us. Read [Genesis 16:1-3](#) and [page 53 in The Action Bible](#). **Why was Sarai frustrated?** (She and Abram had waited for God to fulfill His promise that they would have children, and she had given up hope that it would happen because she was old.)
4. Sarai became tired of waiting, so she decided to take matters into her own hands. **What did she do?** (She told Abram to take a second wife- her Egyptian servant, Hagar- so that they could have a child by her. In those times, some men had more than one wife.) Abraham did as Sarai asked.
5. Sarai's plan succeeded, and soon they knew that Hagar would have a child. **But it wasn't working out as planned. Why?** (Read the top of [page 54](#) and discuss [Genesis 16:4-6](#)) After Hagar became pregnant, she "looked with contempt" on Sarai. **What do you think that means?** (Discuss- and ask what someone's face would look like if they looked with contempt on someone.)
6. Hagar could give Abram a child and Sarai had not been able to, so she started treating Sarai differently, making Sarai angry. **What did Sarai do?** ([Verses 5-6](#), She told Abram, and he told her to do what she wanted with Hagar.) Sarai then treated Hagar harshly. **What did Hagar do?** (She ran away.)
7. **How did Sarai cause this problem?** (By not waiting on the Lord for what He had promised her.)
8. Even though this was not the child that God had promised Abram and Sarai, God cared for him and for his mother. Hagar was probably trying to get back to Egypt, but she had no one to protect her and she was an unwed mother, which was looked down upon. An angel of God appeared to Hagar when she was sitting by a spring in the wilderness. Read [verses 7-10](#) and [page 54 of The Action Bible](#). **What did he tell her?** ([Verse 9](#)- he told her to return to Sarai and submit to her. But he assured her that from her son Ishmael her offspring would multiply. There would be so

many they could not be counted.)

9. Read **verses 11, 12**. **How did the angel describe Ishmael?** (*A wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him.*)
10. Read **verse 13**. Hagar knew that the Lord saw her and was looking after her and her child. **How do you think this made her feel?** (*Discuss this. Do your children know that God sees them and cares about them?*)
11. Read **verses 15-16**. **What happened next?** (*Hagar returned to Abram's household and her baby was born. Abram named him Ishmael as the angel had told her would happen.*)

Digging Deeper

It's important to connect the Old Testament and the New Testament, because God's story is interconnected. The Old Testament gives us so many connections to the Promised One, Jesus. **How are the story of Hagar and the story of Mary, mother of Jesus, similar?**

- Hagar was an unwed mother, so was Mary. Unwed mothers faced rejection by their families and friends and no one to support them and care for them.
- Both Hagar and Mary were given (by God) husbands who would protect them and care for them.
- God sent an angel to Hagar and also to Mary, to let them know not to be afraid and that He was with them.
- Hagar was told that from her son there would be a multitude of offspring. We will learn more about that later. For Mary, God told her that she did not need to be afraid, that she would bear God's own Son who had come to save the world!

Pray:

God, We are thankful to know that You see us and know our needs. Help us to ask you for help and to "wait on the Lord" when we ask. We know that You know what is best for us, and that we need to have faith in Your promises and wait on Your timing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Family Challenge:

1. **Tell your child (children) that you are going on an adventure tomorrow.** You can decide where you will be going, but try to make it something they will be excited about! The next day, pile everyone into the car and start out. Along the way, you can give hints and let them guess, but don't tell until you arrive! Ask them how it felt to wait, and how did it feel when they discovered what you had planned for them? Abram and Sarai also had to wait for the child God had promised them. But Sarai decided she was tired of waiting.

Next week, we will find out what happened when Abram and Sarai finally heard they were going to have a baby! Sometimes, God has us wait, too. We need to have faith that He

knows what is best and He will give us what we need in His timing, not ours. We need to "Wait Upon The Lord."

2. You can do the same thing by **placing a delicious dessert in front of your children and setting a timer for 10 minutes**. Tell your children that they may not eat the dessert until the time has passed, and then leave the room and see what happens! If they waited, give them extra! **Ask: "Was it hard to wait? Why?"** Abram and Sarai also had to wait for something they wanted very much, and it was hard. When you have to wait, ask God to help you and have faith that He knows what is best and we can trust His promises.