

The Faith of Sarah: Waiting is Hard

1.10.23

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Remember: you do not have to do the entire study (you may not have time) – you can choose what questions you want to discuss.

Read Genesis 16

1. Why would waiting have been particularly hard for Sarah?
2. In the time of Abraham and Sarah, what type of social stigma was attached to childlessness? Why? How has this changed in our day?
3. When have you had to wait a long time for God's promise to come to pass? How did you cope? What made it hard? What helped you persevere in hope?
4. Why did Sarah suggest Abraham sleep with Hagar? What was Sarah trying to achieve through this?
5. What were the short-term results of this? What longer term implications and results did this have?
6. Have you ever, like Sarah, tried to speed up the fulfilment of God's promise to you? How did you attempt this? What happened?
7. What helps you wait? What do we learn through waiting?
8. When you look back on your life, where do you see God moving to fulfil his promises where perhaps, at the time, you didn't? What changed your perspective?
9. Read Romans 8:28. When have you experienced this for yourself?
10. How have you learnt to accept God's timing rather than your own?

Prayer points:

- Pray for the plight of refugees, the homeless, and the displaced around the world.
- Pray for the two families from Afghanistan here.
- Pray for the people of Morocco (earthquake) and Libya (flooding).