

Genesis 15–16

Trusting God's Promises & Waiting on God's Timing

Highlights

- God comforts Abram: *“Fear not... I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”* (15:1)
- God promises descendants as numerous as the stars.
- Abram believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness (15:6).
- God alone passes between the covenant sacrifices, guaranteeing His promises.
- God foretells Israel's slavery, the Exodus, and the inheritance of Canaan.
- Sarai's impatience leads to Hagar bearing Ishmael, creating conflict.
- God meets Hagar in the wilderness as **El Roi**, “The God Who Sees Me.”
- God's covenant continues through Isaac, not Ishmael.

Main Lessons

- God is faithful even when His promises seem delayed.
- Faith trusts before it sees.
- Waiting develops our faith.
- Human shortcuts create lasting consequences.
- God sees the forgotten.
- God's grace is greater than our failures.

Discussion Questions

1. Abram believed God's promise before he saw any evidence. Why is waiting on God often one of the hardest parts of faith?
2. What is the difference between asking God honest questions and doubting God's character?
3. Have you ever tried to “help God out” instead of waiting for His timing? What happened?
4. Why do you think God waited so many years before fulfilling His promise to Abram and Sarai?
5. Hagar called God “The God Who Sees Me.” How does that encourage people who feel overlooked or forgotten today?
6. Looking at both chapters together, what do they teach us about the difference between living by faith and living by sight?