

GENESIS

THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 12: While You Wait...

August 26 & 27, 2017 | Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

PLAN A: Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

PLAN B: Genesis 16:1-4

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

How do I know the difference between a Plan A and a Plan B?

If the plan is God-promised, God-centered, God-glorifying and God-orchestrated, it's Plan A.

If the plan is self-driven, self-centered, self-glorying or self-orchestrated, it's Plan B.

Why do we create a Plan B?

We are tired of waiting for Plan A

What's the danger of creating our own Plan B?

A person's own folly leads to their ruin,
yet their heart rages against the Lord.
— Proverbs 19:3

While You're in the Waiting Room

Trust that waiting time is never wasting time in God's plan

But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint. – Isaiah 40:31 *New King James Version*

Refresh the lessons from Genesis 16:

God is not your panic button (*Genesis 16:5*)

If you want to heal the mess, you have to go back through it
(*Genesis 16:7-9*)

In the middle of self-created mess, God shows up and sees you
(*Genesis 16:13*)

Remind yourself daily of Plan A

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. – Matthew 22:37-39

Live out the purpose of Plan A:

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. – James 2:22-23

Next Steps

If the final scripture above challenges you or resonates with you, don't miss *Faith Does*, the new sermon series starting September 2/3.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Do you have a plan for Labor Day weekend? What's your Plan B?
- 2) Why do you think most of us struggle with God's Plan A?
- 3) Can you find a hero in the story of Genesis 16? What's the main lesson you can pull from this dysfunctional epic?
- 4) How do you handle spiritual seasons of waiting? What have you learned in those seasons?
- 5) How can you put your faith into action this week?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the coming week?