

Genesis 16: Sermon Discussion Questions

1. Where do you see the “weight of waiting” affecting Abram and Sarai, and what does their response reveal about what prolonged waiting can do to our trust in God? (Genesis 16:1–2; Proverbs 13:12)
2. Sarai knew God was sovereign, yet her circumstances caused her to question what He was doing. When have you found it easier to believe that God *can* act than to trust His goodness when He hasn’t acted? (Genesis 16:2; Psalm 13:1–2; Romans 8:28)
3. What are some “shortcuts” people are tempted to take when God’s timing feels too slow? What makes those shortcuts seem reasonable in the moment? (Genesis 16:2–4; Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 30:1)
4. Hagar’s pregnancy made Abram and Sarai’s plan appear to “work.” Why can visible success be a dangerous way to determine whether a decision is faithful to God? (Genesis 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:2–3; Matthew 7:21–23)
5. How did Abram and Sarai’s attempt to control their circumstances affect the people around them? Where have you seen sin or compromise create consequences beyond the person who made the decision? (Genesis 16:4–6; Galatians 6:7–8; James 1:14–15)
6. What stands out to you about the way God treats Hagar compared with the way Abram and Sarai treat her? What does this reveal about God’s character? (Genesis 16:6–11; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 139:1–12)

7. Hagar calls God “El Roi,” the God who sees. What difference should it make during loneliness, disappointment, suffering, or waiting to know that God sees what others may never see? (Genesis 16:13; Psalm 56:8; Hebrews 4:13)

8. Abram and Sarai could only see their present circumstances, while God knew the entire story He was unfolding. What situation in your life is hardest to entrust to God because you cannot see what He is doing? (Genesis 15:4–6; Genesis 21:1–3; Isaiah 46:9–10)

9. Jesus was offered a shortcut to glory but chose obedience even though it led through suffering and the cross. How does Jesus’ faithfulness change the way we think about our own waiting and obedience? (Matthew 4:8–10; Philippians 2:8–11; Hebrews 12:1–3)

10. What would trusting “the God who sees” actually look like for you this week? Is there something you need to stop forcing, surrender to God, or simply continue faithfully waiting for? (Genesis 16:13; Psalm 27:13–14; Proverbs 3:5–6; 1 Peter 5:6–7)