

Wednesday

Read: Genesis 21:15-16 *A desperate cry*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Who had the hardest time trusting God in this story?*
2. *Who might be weeping like Hagar in our world today?*

Prayer Focus We thank you for all the times you've heard us cry out to you, even when we had no words. We ask for faith that won't be overwhelmed by fear. We ask for ears to hear the cries of others in the wilderness.

Thursday

Read: Genesis 21:17-19 *God answers*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The name Ishmael means "God hears." How does that name for God guide you?*
2. *Would Sarah have been happy to hear what God told Hagar? Why?*

Prayer Focus Merciful God, you look out for those in need. You listen and you respond. We know it's not your intention for us to hurt others to fulfill your plan. Teach us how to offer grace and presence to others. Strengthen our faith and trust in your love.

Friday

Read: Genesis 21:20-21 *Ishmael thrives*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *God guided Hagar and Ishmael when Abraham and Sarah would not. What does that say about God in our lives today?*
2. *Who brings out the best in you, even when you might not believe in yourself? Give thanks.*

Prayer Focus God of Israel, you work through the lives of deeply flawed and broken people who never seem to get things right. Let this story speak to our hearts and guide us out of our own wilderness.

Dislocated But Never Deserted

Pastor's message: Genesis 21:8-21;

Sometimes, God allows bad things to happen; But, that doesn't mean that He is not there.

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Briefly, how do you deal with adversity: fight, flight, or freeze?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Genesis 21:8-21**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

DISLOCATED BUT NEVER DESERTED ***June 25, 2023***

Monday

Read: Genesis 21:8-10 *Sarah's rejection*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Sarah tell Abraham to send away Hagar and Ishmael?*
2. *What was missing in Sarah's decision?*

Prayer Focus. Help us remember to turn to you first before making important decisions. Guard our hearts with your love so we don't give in to anger or jealousy, especially when they may do harm to others.

Tuesday

Read: Genesis 21:11-14 *God enters the story*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why was Abraham distressed?*
2. *What troubles you most about how Abraham and Sarah treated Hagar and Ismael?*

Prayer Focus It's hard for us to forgive someone who would throw a mother and baby out onto the desert alone. But we know we are capable of doing wrong, too. Give us greater compassion. Give us eyes to see others as you see them.