

A Beautiful Collision

Genesis 16 & 17

1. Acknowledge Your Spiritual Detour

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal.... So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt."... Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away. Genesis 16:1-6 NIT

DISCUSSION: How are you trying to take things into your own hands instead of allowing God to fulfill His promises? In what way are you allowing God to fulfill His plans for your life?

2. Get Back on the Road

DISCUSSION: Are you typically the violated or the violator in situations in your life? Try and be objective, we are not all the violated.

a. Stop for Refreshments

The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied. The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count... for the Lord has heard your cry of distress."... Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to

her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."... Genesis 16:7-13 NIT

DISCUSSION: What part of your life is broken? How are you opening your life so that the Lord can meet you in your broken-ness?

2 Cor. 1:3-4

DISCUSSION: How are you allowing God to refresh you and Comfort you?

b. Stop for Directions

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai — 'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life."... At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations."... Genesis 17:1-8 NIT

DISCUSSION: In what part of your life do you need to admit that you're lost? Where do you need to yield your life to God's authority?

DISCUSSION: In what way are you currently living a life of faith? In what way are you NOT living a life of faith?

DISCUSSION: How is God displaying His "relentless grace" in your life? Where are the areas where He has never given up on you?

3. Brace for Impact

... This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you. From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth.... All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant.... Genesis 17:9-14 NIT

DISCUSSION: In what way are you allowing God to reveal His hidden plan for your life?

PRAYER PROJECT: Spend 5-7 minutes and ask God, "Lord, You have a plan for me. What do I need to let go of in order to receive from You my next steps towards the fulfillment of your plans for my life?" Ask this question and then sit and listen for His answer.

What happened during your prayer time? What was this experience like for you? Share with your group.

DISCUSSION: Are you willing to surrender to God's plan? Will you allow your group to hold you accountable?