

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **February 9, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), “Children of God’s Promise, Part 1.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 16:1-16) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Genesis 16:1-16; 21:1-21)

Sermon Outline:

1. **When our faith in God’s promise is weak, we seek to do God’s will our way, and in our timing. (16:1-16)**
 - a. Sarai makes a substitution plan (including Hagar) because she grows weary in waiting for God.
 - b. Her alternative plan did not accomplish God’s will and in fact, created tremendous problems in her life.
 - c. Her counterfeit plan looks a lot like the real thing, but it is a complete fraud.
2. **When our faith in God’s promise is strong, we trust God to do his will, his way and in his perfect timing. (21:1-21)**
 - a. 14 years later, God was faithful to keep his promise—his way, and in his timing.
 - b. Do not grow weary in waiting on God’s timing.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How have you tried to make God’s will happen in your timing, and by using your own resources and cunning? What was the result?
2. What consequences have you had to live with because you tried to make God’s will happen in your own “flesh”?
3. God often seems slow to keep his promises while we are waiting. Weak faith grows impatient and tries to make something happen, while strong faith waits. How can you develop your faith, making it truly strong? Consider James 1:2-14.
4. Once we SEE the fruit of God’s plan, our eyes are often opened and our joy is unspeakable. Tell about a time in your life when you did wait for God’s timing—when God accomplished his will in his timing in your life. What did you learn from that situation?
5. We were reminded that, for those of us who have botched it—really messed things up—that God is still there for us. He knows your name. Discuss: even if you are living with lifetime consequences from trying to do God’s will your way, God sees you, forgives and cares for you.