

Unshakable - Hagar's Encounter with God

Genesis 16 (ESV): **1** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; **2** so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. **3** So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. **4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. **5** Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me." **6** "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. **7** The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. **8** And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. **9** Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." **10** The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." **11** The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. **12** He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers." **13** She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." **14** That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. **15** So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. **16** Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 21 (ESV): **8** The child [of Sarah and Abraham] grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. **9** But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, **10** and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." **11** The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. **12** But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. **13** I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." **14** Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. **15** When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. **17** God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18** Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." **19** Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. **20** God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

What was Hagar's role in the house? How do Abram and Sarai treat Hagar in these 2 accounts?

How does the angel of the LORD/God treat Hagar?

What did Hagar learn about God after her encounter with Him (the Angel)?

Notes:

Personal Journaling Time after the talk

What impacted you most this morning from the story of Hagar?

Reflect on your own story. What areas of your life have you wondered (past or present) if God sees or cares? What encouragement can you take from the story of Hagar and her encounter with the Lord?

Discussion Questions:

- What impacted you most this morning from the story of Hagar?

- What encouragement or comfort can you take away from this story for your life? How does the fact that God sees and hears you and has a plan for your story impact you today?

- The two main women in this story take different approaches to wondering if God sees their plight and cares—Sarah isn't willing to wait on God so she takes control and makes things happen on her timetable. Hagar wonders if God sees her life and cares, and tries to escape her story. Which of these women do you relate more to in your own life? How does this story encourage you to wait and trust the Lord?