



Abram's Faith Tested

Genesis 16

How to use this Scripture Engagement



Pray to Begin

Before you start each lesson, ask the Lord to use it to grow you in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Read the Bible passage

Invite God to open your eyes and deepen your understanding of His Word as you read the passage.



Study the Scripture Engagement Guide

Go through the Scripture Engagement study provided to reflect on the meaning, context, and personal application of the passage you've read.



Reflect on the Scripture Engagement Questions

After every teaching, consider the Scripture Engagement questions listed for personal reflection and application and for your small group discussions.



Listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Teaching

If you'd like to hear the complete audio teaching on the passage, [visit ttb.bible](http://ttb.bible) or scan the QR code on the last page to download the THRU the BIBLE app in your own language.



Use our recommended **pause and resume icon**. This will guide you to move through the content thoughtfully and at your own rhythm.

For your consideration

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Abram's Faith Tested

Lord,

teach us to wait for Your timing and not take matters into our own hands. When we have to wait, help us trust Your promise and rest in Your plan. May our choices be led by belief, not by our impatience.

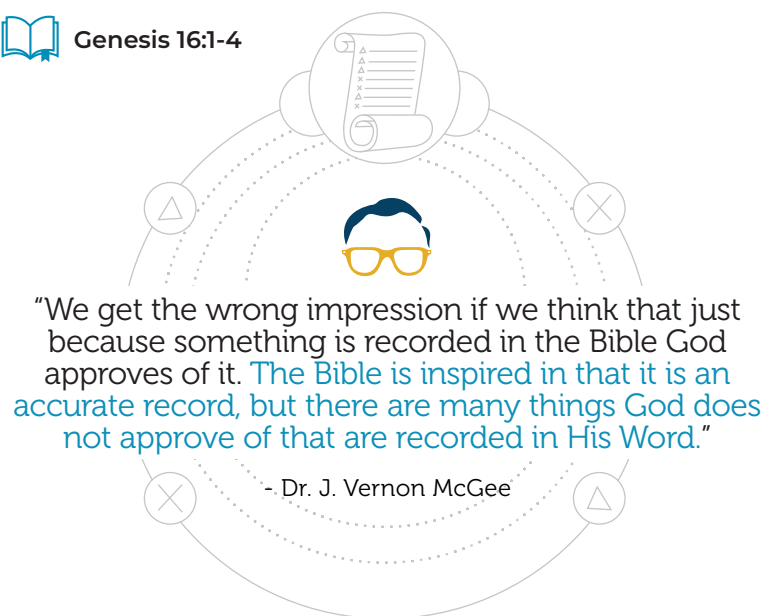
Amen



Shortcuts to the Promise



Genesis 16:1-4



This chapter begins with the introduction of a new character in Abram's story, Hagar. Abram had brought home two things from Egypt - wealth, and Hagar the Egyptian maid. Both of these led Abram to sinful decisions.



In *Galatians 4:21-25*, Paul uses Hagar as an allegory. He speaks of Hagar and her offspring as being under the law, and he speaks of Sarai and her offspring as being free and of the promise.



Which do you want to be joined to, **the law** or **Christ**?

Sarai's words reveal the ache of deferred hope, "**The Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.**" (*Genesis 16:2*)



Her reasoning is natural but not spiritual. In desperation she suggests what culture allowed and was a common practice in those times. God does not approve it and will not accept an offering this way, because it was wrong.

Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Instead of standing in faith, he yields to human reasoning. It was the voice of impatience replacing the voice of promise.

 Have you ever grown impatient waiting on God?

Hagar conceives and pride takes over. What began as a shortcut to blessing becomes a source of division and now both must face the fruit of unbelief. The true failure here is not moral, but spiritual. It is unbelief, trying to fulfill God's promise without God's power.

 Write down areas of your life where you are **most tempted to "help God out"**. How can you learn to wait in faith?

Conflict between Sarai and Hagar



Genesis 16:5-16



Conflict grows quickly. Hagar, now pregnant, faces harsh treatment from Sarai and flees into the wilderness alone and afraid.

Yet it is here, in her exile,
where grace finds her.



"Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur." *Genesis 16:7*

This is the first mention of the Angel of the Lord in Scripture, believed to be the pre-incarnate Christ, seeking the lost even then. The same God who met Abram in glory now meets a servant girl in distress.

Do you believe Christ still sees you in your wilderness?

Further into Hagar's story we see how God does not excuse sin, but He extends compassion. Hagar will bear a son, Ishmael, which means, "God hears". God saw her pain and heard her cry.



How gracious God is to Hagar! It is not her sin, so God very graciously deals with her.

Hagar is overwhelmed by the fact that she is seen by God and names the Lord,

"El Roi"

(יְאֵרֹאֵל)

"You-Are-The-God-Who-Sees."

Genesis 16:13

How gracious God is to those who wander. He does not overlook the outcast or forget the faint-hearted. The same God who sought Hagar in the desert seeks us when our faith fails.





Reflection

Question 1

What does Hagar's encounter with God reveal about His compassion for the unseen and forgotten?

Question 2

What does this passage reveal about the danger of rushing God's promises?



Application

Question 3

Can you share a testimony or song from your life about a moment when you experienced God as El Roi, “the God who sees me”?

Draw your Application



Tests of Abram



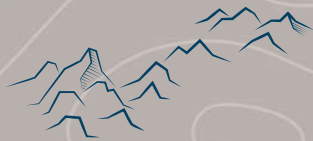
Genesis 12 - 16

Before moving forward, it helps to look back. Abram's life journey is a tapestry of tests where faith is continually stretched and refined by the Lord.



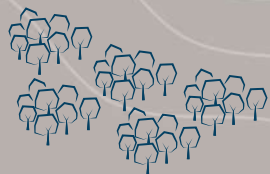
The Call from Ur

Abram leaves home at God's command, stepping out in faith.



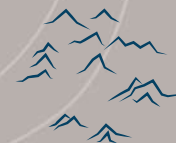
The Famine in Canaan

Fear drives him to Egypt, where he gains wealth and Hagar, both future stumbling blocks.



The Test of Riches

Prosperity leads to strife with Lot, but generosity prevails as Abram chooses peace over possession.



The Test of Power

After victory over the kings, he refuses worldly reward and honors God as his source.



The Test of Waiting

Ten years without a son brings impatience and compromise, resulting in the birth of Ishmael.



More Trials Yet to Come



Reflection

Question 1

Which of Abram's tests most mirrors your current journey of faith?



Application

Question 2

How do setbacks become stepping stones in your walk with God?

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

It is difficult for a little, finite man to conceive of the infinite God, and all of us come short of understanding and of knowing Him. I think that a theme which will engage us throughout the endless ages of eternity is just coming to know God. That is worthy of any man's study. To come to know God is something that will dignify a man's position throughout eternity.

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