

Genesis 16:1-4; 17:1-8, 15-19



Big Idea:

As we put confidence in God, we must surrender our expectations and patiently wait on him for the fulfillment of his promises.

Thought Exercise:

- When were you in a position to have to wait for something expected?

Items for discussion:

Surrendering Expectations

- After 11 years of waiting, Abram and Sarai take matters into their own hands.
- The greatest temptations we face are to stop waiting for God and discerning a time to act from a time of patience.
- In Galatians 4:23, Paul distinguishes Ishmael and Isaac by comparing the son of the flesh and the son of divine promise.

Patience

- In a culture of instant gratification, patience is a difficult trait to develop.
- 13 years after Ishmael is born, God initiates a covenant with Abraham (99 years old).
- What is the significance of the name change?
- “The word patience means the willingness to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in the belief that something hidden there will manifest itself to us” – Henry Nouwen

Journey of Trust

- Hebrews 11:8, 11
- Faith is not automatic nor is it a one-time event.
- Our faith is often imperfect.
- How does fear and doubt affect our journey of faith.

Surrender Control

- What does it really mean when we say, “God is in control”?
- What are some struggles that come with surrendering control?

God has created and brought to order and function to the earth, the rebellion of humanity against divine authority, and God’s plan to restore mankind to his original purpose through grace and faith.

