

## Genesis 16:1-16 (NIV)

*1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; 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 slave 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 slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." 6 "Your slave 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, slave 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 increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."*

*11 The angel of the Lord also said to her:*

*"You are now pregnant  
and you will give birth to a son.  
You shall name him Ishmael,[a]  
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[b] 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[c] the One who sees me." 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi[d]; 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.*

Footnotes; [a] Ishmael means God hears.; [b] Or live to the east / of; [c] Or seen the back of; [d] Beer Lahai Roi means well of the Living One who sees me.

# FATHER ABRAHAM

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield  
2026 April-June Sermon Series Study Guide

## Abram and Hagar

### OPEN

- When do you feel most deeply understood by someone else?

### STUDY

- Read Genesis 16:1-6.
- What is Sarai's predicament and how does she try to solve it. How does it backfire on her?
- We see Sarai blaming Abram for the situation. Is that fair? Why or why not?
- How can we tell if our actions are motivated by faith or by social pressure?
- Read Genesis 16:7-16.
- How do we see God taking care of Hagar in this section?
- How does the the Lord's promise of countless descendants to Hagar mirror His earlier promise to Abram?
- What was it, do you think, that made Hagar feel seen by God? How would this help her go back to her abusive mistress?
- What difficult place do you find yourself in currently? How does knowing you are seen by God change how you face that particular "desert"?
- How does the story of Hagar's ordeal and Ishmael's birth help us understand God's plan even amidst human failings and complexities?

### PRAY

- Spend time praising God that he sees us even when we make a mess of things— then invite him into those messes!