

Note to Leaders: Every Small Group is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question.
Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes our lives don't go according to plan; there are unexpected events that occur out of our control and beyond our means. In these times it can be difficult to see the plan of God or to believe His promises over us. However, often we find if we keep going back to God and choose to stand on the word He's spoken over us- we can find the strength and peace to journey the season with faith and hope.

In the book of Genesis we come across Hagar and her story shows us a picture of who God really is and what He is really like. We see that even though life can take some unexpected turns - God is faithful to His promises and that He can turn any situation around and work it together for our good..

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 16:7-15. What can you learn from Hagar's response to God's instruction? Have you ever been in a situation where you had to obey God even though you didn't understand why? Would you be comfortable sharing that situation with the group and how you dealt with it?
2. How important is our understanding of God's identity and character? Do you believe that He is always good, always faithful and that He sees you and cares about you as an individual? Are there any situations in your life where you have doubted or still doubt His intentions towards you?
3. Sometimes inheriting the promise of God is conditional on our obedience. Are there any areas of your life right now that you know you need to submit to God in to see His promise come to pass?
4. Are there any promises of God over your life that you know you need to hold on to? Are there any promises that you've given up on or resigned yourself to the fact that they may not come to pass? In what way can Hagar's story encourage you to keep trusting God to see the promise fulfilled?
5. What is your biggest take away from this conversation or this Sunday's message?
6. How will this change your actions in the future? Is there anything practical that you can put in place to make sure you apply the truth that you've discovered?

MOVING FORWARD

The word of God never returns to Him empty; it always accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent. What promises do you need to remind yourself of today?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 1:20