

FAMILIES



Are Messy

Shattered Dreams



Genesis 16: 1

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar.

Proverbs 30: 15b - 16

15 ...There are three things that are never satisfied—no, four that never say, “Enough!”:
16 the grave, the barren womb, the thirsty desert, the blazing fire.

Genesis 16: 2

2 So Sarai said to Abram, “The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.” And Abram agreed with Sarai’s proposal.

Ways we often respond

- We can become bitter (Gen 16: 3 – 5)



Genesis 16: 3

3 So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

Genesis 16: 4 - 5

4 So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who’s wrong—you or me!”

Ways we often respond

- We can become bitter (Gen 16: 3 – 5)
- We can become fatalistic



Ways we often respond

- We can become bitter (Gen 16: 3 – 5)
- We can become fatalistic
- We can seize control



Genesis 16: 2, 4a

2 So Sarai said to Abram, “The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.” And Abram agreed with Sarai’s proposal. 4 So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant.

**It's good to not be
passive in the face of
our problems!**



Genesis 16: 5 - 6

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who’s wrong—you or me!” 6 Abram replied, “Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

Genesis 16: 7 – 8

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. 8 The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,” she replied.

Genesis 16: 9 – 10

9 The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.”

10 Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

Genesis 16: 11, 13b

11 And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. 13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, “You are the God who sees me.”

Two questions

- Any way I can turn this problem into an opportunity?



Two questions

- Any way I can turn this problem into an opportunity?
- Who is God for me?



Genesis 16: 13b

13 ...She said, “You are the God who sees me.”

God sees you with eyes
of love and compassion



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