

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Would you consider yourself to be a patient person? Give a few examples of why or why not.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

Intro:

- **Read** Genesis 16 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Brad challenged us with **three results of taking matters into our own hands rather than waiting in faith**.
- Look back at the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, an illustration, a challenge, a question, or a new way of thinking)?

Result #1 - Relational Strife with People

- *Abram and Sarai grew impatient waiting for God to give them a son, so Abram had a son with Hagar, Sarai's servant. Although this was a common practice in that culture, it wasn't acceptable to God.*
- A. Just because something is common doesn't make it right. What are some common practices today that aren't right in God's eyes? Do you have any specific biblical evidence to support your answer?
- B. Talk about a time in your life when you have found this statement to be true, "If you have to convince yourself that something is God's plan, it probably isn't."
- C. Try to put yourself in Hagar's shoes. How do you think she felt when she gave birth to Ishmael? How do you think she felt when Sarai treated her harshly? How do you think she felt when God found her and told her to return to Abram and Sarai?

Result #2 - Relational Strife with God

- *Abram and Sarai's impatience had disastrous consequences. Instead of waiting on God and experiencing His blessings, they took matters into their own hands and experienced strife with God.*
- A. Why is it so hard to wait on God's perfect plan and not impatiently take matters into our own hands?
- B. Be honest, do your actions show that you trust God, or that you think you know what's best? How?
- C. If God has you in a time of waiting right now, what are some ways that you can draw closer to Him while you wait?

Result #3 - Relational Separation from God

- *Thousands of years after Abram and Sarai, a supernatural birth would take place and God's son would be born of a virgin and die for all those who tried to earn salvation on their own.*
- A. Sin separates every person from God. What are some ways that people today take matters into their own hands to connect back with God?
- B. How does this idea compare to **Ephesians 2:8-9**?
- C. If you say you are a Christian, are you truly "resting your whole weight" on God, or is your faith in a childhood prayer, a weekly ritual, or something else that you believe you can do to earn salvation?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- "God, today I ask that you would show me that your plan for my life is far better than my plan."

