

Bible Chat week starting 20 3 22

1. Pool your knowledge about the story of Abraham and Sarah - originally Abram and Sarai. What was the great promise they were living towards?
2. **Read Genesis 16: 1 - 2.** How come Sarai adopts such a drastic strategy?
3. **Read verses 3 - 4.** Speculate on how these events might have looked from Hagar's perspective.
4. **Read verses 5 - 6.** On the face of it, Sarai is achieving her goal. How is it that she can't tolerate Hagar's attitude?
5. **Read verses 7 - 8.** Hagar's story now begins to break away from Abram and Sarai's story. Is there room for both stories? How would that seem for Sarai, Abram, Hagar and the angel of the Lord?
6. **Read verses 9 - 10.** Why does the angel send Hagar back to Sarai? Is the instruction he gives made more palatable by the promise?
7. **Read verses 11 - 12.** Who else receives birth-announcements like this in the biblical narrative? Why is this such a surprising promise?
8. **Read verses 13 - 14.** Reflect on what Hagar is trying to convey in her new name for God, and for the well.
9. **Read verses 15 - 16.** Soon Hagar and Ishmael will leave Abraham and Sarah for good. Share what you know of Ishmael's story. How comfortable are we with hearing stories and understandings of life or religion very different from our own?
10. Who are the people who, today, tell the stories that powerful people might prefer not to be told?
11. How do you feel about seeing the God who sees you, just as you truly are? What would he see in you? Can you grow to see yourself the way God sees you?