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La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS. Behind The Curtain: Abraham Part 2 // Episode 1
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Genesis 16:3-15

3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. 4 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." 5 "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. 6 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 7 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. 8 Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 9 The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now with child, and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. 11 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 all his brothers." 12 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 the One who sees me." 13 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. 14 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 15 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

**Few things hinder the work of God like a family steeped in chaos, dysfunction, and emotional turmoil.
Genesis 16 tells the story of a broken family that God won't give up on."**

The Characters: **Sarai:** The manipulative and controlling victim. **Abram:** The dishonest and disengaged father. **Haggar:** The ambitious yet mistreated maidservant.

Sarai- means *contentious and quarrelsome*.

- **Barren:** **Genesis 11:30** Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.
- **Trafficked:** **Genesis 12:13** Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.
- **Controlling:** **Vs. 3** So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.
- **Victim:** **Vs. 5** Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."

Abram- means *high father*.

- **Weak — Vs. 4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.
- **Disengaged:** **Vs. 6** "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think is best."

Hagar- means *forsaken*.

- According to Muslim belief, she was the daughter of the king of Egypt who gifted her to Ibrahim's wife [Sarah](#).
- **Arrogant:** **Vs. 4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.
- **Forsaken:** The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert

**God sees you, remembers you and is for you.
God is the redeemer of broken stories and broken families.**

Sarai: Genesis 17:15-17 And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name (**PRINCESS**). I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Abram: Genesis 22: 17-18 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Hagar:

- **Vs. 9** Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count."
- **Vs. 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 the One who sees me."

Small Group Questions:

1. Pastor Adam said that few things hinder the work of God in the world like broken families. Why would this be?
2. Vs. 5 shows Sarah blaming Abraham for a decision she made? Was she right to do this? How can we sometimes do the same in our lives?
3. Abraham failed in his role as leader in his family. How might he have handled this situation differently?
4. Who, if anyone, do you most relate to in this story and why?
5. God is shown as one who sees, remembers, and redeems. Is there an area or relationship in your life that needs redemption? If so, would you share it?

¹ Hagar-According to Muslim belief, she was the daughter of the king of Egypt who gifted her to Ibrahim's wife [Sarah](#).