**Abram: Hagar and Ishmael**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 16:1-16**

**Bible Story Number: 1010180**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

Abram’s name will be changed to Abraham (Gen. 17:5) and his wife Sarai will become Sarah (Gen. 17:15).

God made a profound promise to Abram (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

God told Abram to leave his country and go to the place God would show him, and he obeyed.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 16:1-16**

This is what the Bible says.

God had promised:

 To bless Abram and make him the father of a great nation.

 To make Abram famous throughout history.

 To protect his allies and punish his enemies.

 To bless the entire world through his descendants.

When Abram was in his mid 80s, he and his wife, Sarai, did not have any children. She knew of God’s promise to make Abram the father of a great nation and that the entire world would be blessed through his descendants. Sarai told Abram that God had not allowed her to have any children.

Sarai had an Egyptian maidservant (a slave) named Hagar. She told Abram to go and sleep with Hagar, and maybe he could build a family through her. Abram agreed. Sarai gave Hagar to Abram and he slept with her and she conceived.

When Hagar knew that she was pregnant, she began to despise Sarai. Sarai was angry and blamed Abram. He told her that she could do whatever she thought was best with her slave. So, Sarai mistreated Hagar and Hagar fled.

God sent an angel to Hagar. The angel appeared to Hagar near a spring in the desert. The angel asked her where she had come from and where she was going. She answered by saying that she was running from her owner Sarai. The angel told her to go back to Sarai and submit to her.

The angel also told her that he would increase her descendants so that they would be too many to count. He told her that she was going to have a son and told her to give him the name, Ishmael (God hears) because God had heard her misery. He told her that Ishmael would be “like a wild donkey” and that his hand would be against everyone, and everyone’s hand would be against him.

So Hagar returned to Sarai, and Ishmael was born. Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Who initiated the decision for Abram to have a child by Sarai’s slave Hagar?
* Did Abram go along with the plan?
* Did Abram have a son by Hagar?
* What did Hagar do that made Sarai angry?
* Who did Sarai blame?
* What did Abram tell Sarai to do about Hagar?
* What did Sarai do?
* What was Hagar’s child’s name? What does his name mean? Where did his name come from?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.