



SERMON GUIDE

**TRUE FREEDOM AND THE GOD WHO SEES**

Genesis 16:1-16

Pastor | Tim Porter

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Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- S**cripture that stands out to you while you read
- O**bservations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you
- A**pplication that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- P**rayers that invites God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

**Conversation Questions**

**Getting to Know Me:** Can you think of a time when you had to wait a long time for something you were promised? How did you feel during the waiting period?

**Notes on the Reading:** What unfolds between Sarai, Hagar and Abram in the opening verses of our reading today will sound strange to our modern ears, but in their context, it was common, legal and a culturally acceptable way for a woman to build her family if she was unable to have children.

**Read Genesis 16:1-16**

- S** What do you love most about what you just read? What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** What are we learning about Abram and Sarai in this story? What does their treatment of Hagar reveal about their character? What does it reveal about their faith?
  - What does Sarai want more than anything else? What is she prepared to do to get it?
  - What does Abram want more than anything else? What is he prepared to do to get it?
  - What does Hagar want more than anything else? How does God provide it?
- O** Abram and Sarai are held up in the New Testament as heroes of the faith (Heb. 11:8-16)!
  - What does all of this reveal about the grace of God toward his people? Does this convict, challenge, comfort or confuse you? Why?
- O** Why do you think Hagar names the LORD "You are a God of seeing" (or "You are a God who sees me")? Why is God's promise in verses 10-12 such good news to her?
- A** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A** What we're seeing in the story of Abram is how complicated God's relationship with deeply flawed people can be. If God makes promises to people, then he has to work with the people as he finds them.
  - How is God's patience and mercy manifesting itself in your life right now? What he is teaching you, changing in you, and revealing to you?
  - Are you grateful? Is God's mercy toward you making you more merciful toward others?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.