



## Week 5: Why It's Worth the Wait

One of the things that makes faith challenging is that God is never in a hurry and we almost always are. But, running ahead of God never leads to anything good. Genesis 16 is the poster chapter for why waiting isn't just important, but necessary. God is patient in his plan of redemption and waiting with Him is how we become more like Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Genesis 16:1-4.** Sarai vocalizes a lie in this passage that God has prevented her from having children. Why does this sound like the truth to her? What lies do you have a tendency to believe about God in your life and what are you doing to replace them with truth?
2. **Read Genesis 16:5-6.** What do you think we can learn from Abram and Sarai's attempt to fulfill God's promise in their own way? How does this relate to our own lives and struggles with patience and trust? Can you think of an example where your disobedience created disconnection with God and others? How did you work through it?
3. **Read Genesis 16:7-12.** How does the encounter between Hagar and the angel of the Lord demonstrate God's grace and compassion? Why do you think the angel of the Lord told her to go back? Have you ever had a difficulty that you ran away from (challenging conversation, relationship, task, calling, etc.)? Was it helpful?
4. **Read Genesis 16:13-16.** Why do you think God promises to bless Hagar with many descendants through Ishmael if this wasn't His plan? What does this tell us about God?
5. How does the concept of "the God who sees me" (El-roi) resonate with you? How can recognizing God's presence and awareness of our struggles impact our faith journey? Where would you like for God to "see you" right now? Close your time by praying for that as a group.