

BY FAITH

SEEING THE UNSEEN

God Knows

Genesis 16

After reading the passage together, discuss the following questions:

1. Pastor Tom said that this passage is about “abandoning” ourselves to God. How do you react to that expression? Do you find it exciting, joy-giving, scary, uncomfortable, or something else? Please explain.
2. Put yourself into the shoes of Abraham and Sarah. What factors, do you think, led them to the decision to have a child through Hagar? How did they each contribute to the poor choice they made?
3. Have you ever gotten ahead of God’s timing for your life because of your own impatience, or because you listened to the voice of another person rather than to God (v. 2)? Please share your experience.
4. Pastor Tom mentioned that Abraham and Sarah were trying to control outcomes—something only God can ultimately control. How do we balance our responsibilities, in any given situation, with God’s sovereign control over all things?
5. In verse 13 of our passage Hagar describes God as “the God who sees me.” The apostle Paul says that God “is not far from any one of us” (Acts 17:27). In your own life, do you experience God as near to you? Please explain.
6. David Benner says: “Imagine God thinking about you. What do you assume God feels when you come to mind?” How would you answer his question? How do you think your answer to that question is affecting how you are living for God?
7. Pastor Tom, citing Benner, said that the Christian life should be like floating on a river of God’s love. Struggling to stay afloat is unnecessary and unhelpful. Says Benner, “Our staying afloat and moving along are God’s responsibility. All we have to do is surrender.” How do you respond to this? Are there any areas in your life where you see yourself striving rather than trusting?

Take time to pray for one another, keeping in mind the things that were shared.