

Genesis 16 — Impatience

January 24, 2016

Welcome to CrossWinds. It is great to have you. Before we begin this morning's study, I have a little honesty test. Remember, God is watching.

How many of you have found yourself flipping through the channels and were captivated, at least for a few moments, by one of those psycho dysfunctional family drama programs like the Jerry Springer show or the Montel Williams show? How many of you couldn't help but watch the sick chaotic mess of a dysfunctional family? Raise your hand if you have watched at least part of one of those programs.

If you ever found yourself captivated by one of those Jerry Springer-type programs, this is your Sunday. We have a seriously dysfunctional family to look at this morning. In this family there are chick fights, hair pulling, eye gouging and the man of the house sleeping with the maid. Where do we find this kind of psycho family drama that puts Jerry Springer to shame? The Bible.

As a church, we are studying our way through the book of Genesis. For the last few weeks we followed Abram. In the Bible he is usually considered a hero of the faith. He is in the hall of fame for his faith in Hebrews 11. He wasn't always a spiritual stud. Sometimes he was a spiritual coward and even, at times, a complete failure. If you always thought of Abram as a spiritual superhero, today he loses his cape.

Abram's faith was like a yo-yo, which means it was just like ours. In Genesis 12, when God called him to leave his home and family, he started with

half-way faith. He left home but took his father and his nephew, Lot. He got hung up in Haran for a number of years as his half-way faith ended up as a major distraction from God's calling, which delayed his arrival in the Promised Land. As soon as he arrived in the land, he hit a little famine. Like a coward, instead of exercising a little faith, in lack of faith he left the land and ran to Egypt for food. In the process, his cowardice led him to pose his wife as a single sister. He almost lost her to Pharaoh. If it were not for God saving Sarai, Abram would have ruined his life and his future. In Genesis 13, he was back in the Promised Land and his faith was repaired and growing. He needed to divide the Promised Land with Lot because they had too many possessions to dwell together. He exercised great faith by letting Lot choose. In faith he trusted God would protect him. In Genesis 14 his faith became even stronger. In faith he chased down the four-nation coalition of Iran, Syria, Iraq and Turkey. By God's grace he beat much larger armies, saved his nephew, Lot, and became a local hero.

Last week, in Genesis 15, Abram's faith was on its way down. Abram was filled with doubt. He was 10 years into his faith journey and God had not come through on two big promises he made. God had not given him a son and God had not given him possession of the Promised Land. Was God a promise keeper or promise breaker? Does God keep his word? Last week we saw God come through in a big way. He gave Abram a blood-oath promise where he guaranteed beyond a shadow of a doubt that he would keep his word. You would think that would give Abram enough gas in his faith tank to run for the next 20 years. It didn't. On the heels of God's amazing promise Abram had a major

blowout. What I love about Abram is that he was not perfect. His walk with God had some good days and some bad days. He even had some days of terrible failure. In spite of the ups and downs in his life, God never let him go. The same is true for us. Each of us has good days and bad days as we walk with God. Thank God, just like God held on to Abram when he made his life fall apart, God is holding on to us when our life falls apart.

All of us have times in our lives we wish we could edit out of our personal histories. Genesis 16 was one of those times for Abram. As we know, toothpaste does not go back in the tube and there are some things we can never take back no matter how hard we try. This was one of those days for Abram.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. Genesis 16:1 (ESV)

Sarai means princess. Apparently Abram married a high-maintenance wife. Any man that marries a woman named Princess knows his bank account will be empty and his wife's closet will be full. You can see that coming even before the wedding.

Abram means exalted father. Today, we might translate it as super dad. That is a great name to have on your coffee mug in the morning. The problem is the guy named Super Dad didn't have any kids. When your name is Super Dad, and you are 86 and childless, it feels like it is time to change your name and change your mug.

Abram was tired of people asking him about his strange unfulfilled name. Abram was tired of everyone snickering at his name and his life. Abram was tired of telling people God promised 10 years ago that he would have a kid but

apparently God's package was long in the God mail. For 10 years, every day Abram checked his mailbox for bills and his wife's belly for a packet. For 10 years there was no delivery from God.

Can you understand the level of frustration Abram and Sarah were dealing with?

How many of you woman can identify with Sarah? How many of the women this morning grew up looking forward to being a mother? It is a good sign many of you raised your hands. This means the human race will continue. Can you imagine the pain in Sarai's life when she and Abram had all the wealth they need, were highly regarded as heroes in their culture from defeating the ISIT coalition but at age 85 her husband was laughed at because his name was Super Dad, but she couldn't provide him children? Can you feel the pressure in her life?

The next character in the story is a woman named Hagar, Sarai's servant. Where did she come from? She was Sarai's Egyptian maid servant. Do you remember Genesis 12 where Abram went to Egypt in the famine and lied about his wife being his sister? When the Pharaoh took Sarai as his wife, he wanted to be kind to Abram. He gave Abram all kinds of livestock plus men servants and maidservants. Hagar was only in their lives because of Abram's sin. Hagar was brought into their home because of Abram's sin. There is a good point of application in this.

When I sin, I pick up baggage that leads to problems down the road.

Has anyone else discovered this? When you start dating somebody that doesn't love Jesus and you find yourself romantically involved, before you know it there are problems which lead to more problems. You should never date people you can't mate in the first place. When you do, that problem leads to more.

When you tell one lie, you soon need to tell more lies to cover your dishonesty. One sin leads to more problems down the road. Sin always leads to more opportunities to sin. What happens is the sin of Genesis 12 led to more sin, serious sin, in Genesis 16.

And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Genesis 16:2 (ESV)

Can't you hear this dialogue? We can sense Sarai's bitterness. "It is the Lord's fault. He prevented me from having children. God gets an "F" on his report card. God has not delivered on his promise. I am ticked at God." Sarai was bitter. She was angry at God and everybody in the home knew it.

Notice that we don't see her coming to God in prayer. She was just bitter and angry because her dreams of full motherhood were not realized. She was sick and tired of waiting on God so she decided to take matters into her own hands.

Sarai was not alone in this. Ladies, some of you are there right now. You are bitter toward God because you are not married. You are tired of waiting for a godly Christian guy. You are ready to accept the dating offers of any male that has facial hair and a heartbeat. Some of you ladies were married but the guy turned out to be a bum and he walked out on you. Now you are bitter toward

God. Others of you are not tired of waiting for God to give you a man. You tired of waiting for God to give you a child. You are struggling with infertility, just like Sarai. You are getting bitter and angry toward God. God has an “F” on his report card. Don’t go there. Don’t walk away from him. Walk toward him.

Sarai was angry with God so she developed her own little plan that was her selfish sinful way of helping God keep his promise. She had this young, 20-something servant from Egypt that was beautiful and oozing with fertility. Sarai figured she could borrow Hagar’s womb for a child. Abram could sleep with her. Hagar would get pregnant. Sarai would take the baby as her own. Sarai would move Hagar out of the picture, and Sarai would have the kid she desperately wanted that God apparently could not provide. You can just see the wheels spinning in her brain on this one. Let me give you a point of application.

Beware of synergism — Thinking God needs your help. Beware of growing impatient and trying to do God’s will your way.

Synergism is a big theological word. It simply means believing God cannot answer our prayers or do his will without our help. It often comes to mind when we are impatient and tired of waiting for God. We start thinking God needs our help when it doesn’t look like God is moving fast enough. We come up with our own plans rather than submitting our lives to God’s plan, God’s timing and God’s will. Many times our plans may even involve stepping into sin.

Some of you guys can totally relate. God hasn’t brought you the right girl so you start to date girls that do not love Jesus but they are cute and they have a

heartbeat. You figure you can bring them to church and they might become a Christian. You are missionary dating.

Others of you are tired of being alone so you are living with your boyfriend or girlfriend. You know God says you should be married but you don't think you have enough money for marriage so you choose to live together now with the hope of getting married in the future. God's way is you get married. Your way is living together. This is trying to achieve God's plan, that you not be alone, in your sinful way, not in God's righteous way.

In the ancient culture, using the womb of a slave was an acceptable option if you were infertile. The code of Hammurabi from 1750 B.C. mentions this as an option. Clay tablets from Nuzi found in Iraq talk about this. While renting a womb by having your husband sleep with the maid was culturally acceptable, it was not biblically acceptable. The pattern given to us for husband-and-wife relationships is found in Genesis. God gave Adam one wife, not seven. Every instance of polygamy in the Bible shows pain, family breakdown and heartbreak. I know we have a program out there called "Sister Wives" where one man has four wives. I promise you that behind the scenes it is not pretty. In the New Testament we learn the husband-and-wife relationship parallels the relationship between Christ and the church. Christ saved himself for one bride, the church. Christ didn't marry all the religions in the world. In the New Testament letters church leaders are all to be known as one-woman men. That means no other girls on the side. That means no looking at other ladies on the Internet. It means a man is to have eyes for only one woman, his wife.

While Sarai's rent-a-womb program was culturally acceptable, it was not biblically acceptable. It was never God's plan to solve her infertility that way. In the same way there are numerous options today for couples struggling with infertility that are culturally acceptable but not biblically acceptable.

An example would be certain forms of in-vitro fertilization. Doctors usually harvest a dozen eggs from a woman. The doctor then fertilizes all of them in a petri dish but only implants six or less in the mother. What do you do with the other six kids that are now conceived but kept frozen in the deep freeze? They are just as important. Why do six children live but the other six children stay frozen? Is that the way to honor human life? What is culturally acceptable for infertility is not biblically acceptable because all human life is sacred.

In Genesis 16 there is an echo of Genesis 3 and the original sin. In Genesis 3 the main characters were Adam and Eve. In Genesis 16 the main characters are Abram and Sarai. In Genesis 3, the test was one tree that was unacceptable. In Genesis 16, the test is one woman that is unacceptable. In Genesis 3, Eve took the forbidden fruit and gave it to her husband. In Genesis 16, Sarai took the forbidden woman and gave her to her husband. This is clearly a temptation for Abram and Sarai to sin.

What happens next is probably the biggest understatement in the Bible. "Abram listened to the voice of Sarai." Need I say much more?

"Sarai, I am a family man. I will do what is best for the family. If you want me to sleep with a 20-year-old woman and I am an 86-year-old man, I will do it for you, honey. If Hagar doesn't conceive the first time, I promise I will keep

sleeping with her until she conceives to make you happy. It is whatever you want, honey.”

This is a Jerry Springer episode. What was Abram thinking? This is not Abram at his finest moment. Two chapters ago Abram was a man of faith beating down powerful nations. In this chapter Abram was sleeping with the maid.

So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Genesis 16:3–4 (ESV)

Did Sarai’s plan work? Yes! I am sure Sarai started out as excited when she realized Hagar conceived. I am sure she jumped with joy when she realized they were going to finally have a child. The problem is it wasn’t long until she realized the lunacy of her plan. There was now one too many women in the home competing for Abram’s heart. Is there any lady here this morning that thinks this will end well? No! There is another practical point of application in this.

Success is honoring God. Anything else will lead to failure.

Sarai defined success as giving her husband a child. Some people define success as getting rich, getting married or getting a promotion. Success in life is always defined as honoring God in each and every situation, even if it hurts. If your goal is to get married, get rich, get a promotion or anything else more than honoring God, you will find yourself cutting the corners into sin and paying the price. No matter how long we have to wait, no matter how high the price, it is always worth honoring God, no matter what the cost.

Look how this backfired on Sarai. When Hagar realized she was pregnant, she didn't just shrug her shoulders and go back to mopping the floor. It says she began to despise Sarai. She was carrying Abram's baby. She deserved some respect. She started to think Sarai was a loser. Sarai's entire life was focused on being a mother, and she never conceived. Hagar slept with Abram and she conceived in a jiffy. Clearly, Sarai was a reject. Hagar was favored. In Hagar's mind she deserved all Abram's love and attention. Sarai was an old woman. Hagar planned to push her out of the picture. Abram was an old man. Hagar could keep him entertained. Soon Sarai would die, then Abram would die. Hagar and her child would inherit the massive estate. Hagar was a gold-digging opportunist. She planned to sleep her way from serving as a slave to being in charge of the whole estate. That was her plan.

"Sarai, too bad you could never provide a child for your man. Sarai, you were the problem. All those years of pain for Abram, it was because of you. Thankfully I came into his life. I can make him happy because you can't. Sarai, do you want to feel the baby kick? It is an amazing feeling to be pregnant. Sarai, I am sorry you will never know this wonderful feeling of having a child. Being pregnant is hard. Abram, my feet are swelling, could you rub them? Sarai, can you run to the store and get me some ice cream and pickles? The baby is hungry."

Can you picture what is happening? Hagar was trying to seduce Abram's heart. The Bible tells us about this situation.

Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up: ... a maidservant when she displaces her mistress. Proverbs 30:21–23 (ESV)

One of the biggest problems in this world was when a maid tried to assume the place of her mistress. Things were about to get ugly, real ugly. Then came a cat fight, Jerry Springer-style.

And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!” But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. Genesis 16:5–6 (ESV)

Sarai chose to fight for her man. The first person that got in trouble was Abram. This cracks me up. Whose idea was it for Abram to sleep with Hagar in the first place? Sarai’s! Whose fault was it for following directions? Abram’s! Some of the husbands in this room completely understand this situation. This is just like your home. All you do is follow your wife’s directions and you still get in trouble. That doesn’t just happen in your home. It happens in the Bible.

Before we get too mad at Sarai for her irate railing on Abram for following directions, we have to admit that there is truth to what she says. Just as it was Adam’s responsibility to protect Eve from the temptations of Satan in the Garden of Eden, but he failed by being a passive leader and joining his wife in her sin, in the same way it was Abram’s responsibility to protect his wife from her sin. Like Adam he passively followed the leadership of his wife into sin. It was Abram’s responsibility to protect his wife, his family and his home from sin. When Sarai told him she had a beautiful 20-year-old woman dressed in lingerie in the bedroom waiting for him, it was his responsibility to stop the idea, not follow his sex drive into the idea.

Men, we are the heads of our homes. Just as God called Adam to account for following his wife into sin, when we stand before God he will call us to account if we choose to not protect our families from sin but follow our families into sin. It is our job to protect our wives and our children from sin. When the circumstances of life have our wives broken and coming up with nutty ideas, it is our job to think clearly and protect them.

A husband is to protect his wife from sin, not follow her into sin.

In the Bible, the husband is head of his wife as Christ is head of the church. Just as Christ saved the church from her sin, as husbands, our responsibility is to save our wives from their temptations to sin.

Abram was definitely not serving as a protector. In fact, he continues to act as a passive coward. Rather than protecting the young woman he is having sex with and that is carrying his child, when Sarai is in a killer rage he simply backed away and cowered in the corner and said to Sarai, "Do with her as you wish." I don't know what happened next. The Bible doesn't give us the details. I think it was ugly. It is scary watching women have a serious fight. This is what we have. I picture Abram hearing banging in the kitchen. He thought it was Hagar and Sarai making his dinner. In reality, Sarai whacked Hagar in the head with a frying pan. She may have been 76 but she was a tough old woman that fought for her man. Hagar responded by pulling Sarai's hair. Sarai dropped the frying pan and started swinging the rolling pin. This was totally Jerry Springer without the security guards.

I know some of you think I am over-dramatizing. I don't think so. The Hebrew word for "harshly" that is used to describe the way Sarai treated Hagar is the same word used to describe the way Egyptian slave masters treated the Hebrew while in slavery in Egypt. They beat and whipped the Hebrews. This was a violent confrontation by Sarai. Finally, in desperation, Hagar ran for her life.

Hagar ran away from home. This picks up a long way from home when someone we wouldn't expect hunts her down.

The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."
Genesis 16:7-9 (ESV)

Hagar was running for her life. She made it all the way to the spring on the way to Shur. That was on the way back to Egypt. It was a long way from home. She is going back to Egypt single and pregnant.

Somebody named "the angel of the Lord" hunted her down. Who was this angel? Years ago we studied this at CrossWinds. Some of you old-timers may remember this study. In the Old Testament, "an angel of the Lord" is your standard angel. It simply means messenger. In the Old Testament, every time it talks about "the angel of the Lord," it is different. The angel of the Lord is worshipped as God in the Old Testament and he carried all the characteristics of God. The angel of the Lord was in the pillar of fire that leads the Israelites by night and the cloud by day (Exodus 14:19; Isaiah 63:9). The angel of the Lord is the second person of the Trinity. It is Jesus showing up in the Old Testament before Bethlehem.

Up to this point, Hagar was a gold-digging opportunist that tried to push her master out of the picture so she could become the new wife and get all the money, fame and honor for herself and her child. She lost the chick fight with Sarai. Then Hagar was pregnant, unwanted, unloved and without a home. Nobody wanted her. Jesus, in love, hunted her down. She was not looking for Jesus but Jesus was looking for her. She didn't love Jesus but Jesus loved her. Jesus loved this unloved woman. Jesus loved her enough to tell her what to do with her life in a tough situation, pregnant with a child she didn't expect. Jesus told her to go back to Abram and Sarai. Some of you think this was totally mean. Why would Jesus tell her to go back to where she was mistreated?

The reality is that if Hagar went to Egypt she would be homeless, pregnant and carrying a bi-racial child. Nobody would look out for her. If she went back to Sarai and stopped trying to displace Sarai, she would have had all the food and money she needed to raise her son. Most importantly, her son would have a father. Was Hagar's son conceived in the right way? No. The child shouldn't suffer for the sins of the parents. Would it be a mess to go back to Sarai and Abram's home? Yes. It would be hard. It would take a lot of humility to make that relationship work. She needed humility for the good of her son. Every child deserves a father, not just a mother.

The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen." So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between

Kadesh and Bered. And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. Genesis 16:10–16 (ESV)

Jesus also told her about her future. She would have a son. There is no need for an ultrasound with God. He knows. She was to name the son Ishmael. From him will come a nation. Ultimately, Ishmael had a dozen sons and from him came a nation. Today we know Ishmael's descendants as the Arabs.

Ishmael was to have a certain character quality about him. He would be known as a wild donkey of a man. As a mom, Hagar would need to be on meds to handle him. He would be ADDDDDD. He would always be on the move, causing trouble and stirring the pot. Hagar was about to have one of the original problem children. Ishmael's descendants would be just like him. Later in history we have the Jews that come from Isaac that is born to Sarah. The Arabs come from Hagar and Ishmael. They would be known for causing trouble. This essentially explains the last 4,000 years of history in the Middle East. Here is a great point of application for us to learn.

Don't be shortsighted on the consequences of sin.

I hear this all the time. "Sin is not a big deal. After all, Jesus promises to forgive me of my sin. I have a get-out-of-jail-free card for my sin when it comes to Jesus." That is true. While Jesus does forgive our sin, we still face the consequences of our sin. The consequences of sin often reach further than we realize.

Abram thought he was just having sex with a 20-year-old girl. In reality, he was making the future. He was creating a future that would lead to the death of hundreds of thousands of people because of the animosity that exists between

the descendants of Ishmael — the Arabs, and the descendants of Isaac — the Jews.

In some ways we can say that the whole Muslim religion, and the religious fanatics that actually take the Quran seriously, wouldn't exist today if Abram hadn't slept with the maid. Young people, whenever you sleep with someone you are not just having sex. You are writing the future. Don't be shortsighted on the consequences of sin.

How should we treat the Arabs? Today, the knee jerk reaction is to hate every Arab, every son of Ishmael. While we do have a right to defend ourselves as a country, the way we treat the descendants of Ishmael should be the same way Jesus treated their mother. We treat them with love, kindness, grace, mercy, patience, and self-esteem. We get no indication that Hagar ever chose to follow the God of Abram. Jesus was still nice to her. We are to be nice and kind to Arab people, like Jesus was to their mother, and like Jesus is to us. Our hope is that they too meet Jesus. Our hope is that Jesus hunts them and shows mercy in their lives like he did for their mother.

Applications

1. **Beware of impatience (Synergism)** — When you are asking God to provide someone or something in your life, don't cut corners and out of impatience and sin try to answer your own prayer your own way. If you are single, only date Christians you could marry. Don't settle for anything less. Be willing to be alone until God provides the right person. When it comes to advancing your business, your goal is not to be rich. It is to honor God. When it comes to school, your goal is to honor God, not get straight "A"s. There are always

unintended consequences when we rationalize sin and try to answer our own prayers. Beware of impatience. Trust God to provide in his time.

2. **Don't be shortsighted on the consequences of sin.** — Every time we think of sin, don't be fooled into thinking sin isn't a big deal because Jesus forgives it. Jesus forgives our sin but we can't escape the consequences of our sin. Every addict knows this. Every couple that experiences unexpected pregnancy understands this. Abram didn't realize he wasn't just having sex with a 20-year-old woman, he was bringing pain into his home and the world.
3. **Every child needs a father, not just a mother.** If you are a father that walked out on your child, you need to repent and get involved. If you are divorced, you need to work hard to stay involved in your child's life. You need to make the relationship between you and your ex as healthy as possible. Pay your child support. Don't make your child pay for your sin. Every child needs a father and mother. Some guys will not step to the plate and take care of their responsibilities and that leaves some godly single women alone with children. If you are a single guy, don't overlook the single moms that are trying to follow Jesus and make ends meet. They are desperate for godly men to step into their lives who will love them like Jesus loves them. Their children are desperate for fathers that will love them like their heavenly father loves them. In the New Testament, there was a young poor pregnant mother who desperately needed a husband for her life and a father for her child. There was an unsung hero who stepped to the plate in her time of need. His

name was Joseph. The mother was Mary. The child was Jesus. Single men, be a Joseph. Be that unsung hero.

Genesis 16 is a messed-up piece of history. Where is the hero in the story? It isn't Hagar. She was a gold-digging opportunist that tried to displace her master. It wasn't Sarai. She was a controlling, maniacal woman who put another woman in her husband's bedroom, then abused that woman for conceiving the child she wanted. It certainly wasn't Abram. He was a passive leader that didn't protect his wife from her sin and family from temptation.

There is only one hero in this story. His name is Jesus. He was the one who stepped into this Jerry Springer mess. He hunted down Hagar when she was broken and running. He loved her, told her what to do and how to make the best of a bad situation.

It is the same with us. Just like Hagar, Sarai and Abram, we are all messed up. We are all messed up in our sin. Even when we weren't seeking Jesus, Jesus sought us. He loved us even when there is nothing about us to love. He died for our sin and rose to new life to pay for our sin and make us into new creations as we trust and walk with him. Today he offers to forgive you, to help you straighten out the mess in your life and walk with you through it. Jesus is the only hero. He was the only hero 4,000 years ago. He is the only hero today.

It is time to respond.

If you are a follower of Christ, you respond today by submitting your desires and plans to God's will. You commit to trusting in God's timing and God's way. Maybe that is for a spouse, maybe that is for a child, maybe that is for a

job, maybe that is hanging in a marriage that is hard and not giving into to the temptation to get a divorce. Impatience, forcing God's hand when he hasn't opened the door, is guaranteed to lead to disaster and unintended consequences. Like Abram, the consequences of our impatience are often much farther reaching than we realize. Today we need to commit to trust and wait.

If you are not a follower of Christ, today is a great day. You are not here by accident. You are here because Jesus is hunting you down. Jesus is hunting you down because he loves you. He wants to sit down with you. He loves you so much that he died for your sin. Today, he offers to give you a new life. Like Hagar, he will help you straighten out your mess and show you the best way to handle a tough situation. Like Hagar discovered, Jesus sees us. He knows all about us. He loves us.



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