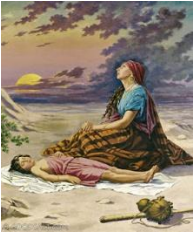


MORE Women of The Bible / Study for Women

Tuesdays in May 2025, 3-5 pm

Gulf Cove UMC Rev. Patty Frick



Session 1a- Old Testament *Hagar & Sarah/Sarai*

Welcome/Opening Comments Rev. Patty

Lighting Candle/Opening Prayer

Introduction – Who Were They?

Brainstorming/Everyone

Scripture: **Hagar** - *Genesis 16:1-16* New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave whose name was Hagar, 2 and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. 4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave 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!" 6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her,

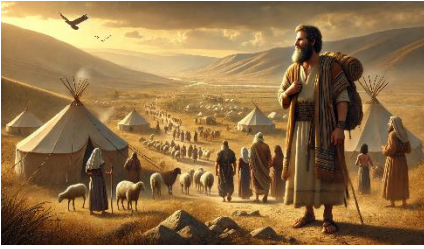
"Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;
you shall call him Ishmael,
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.

12 He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him,
and he shall live at odds with all his kin."

13 So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi," for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. 15 Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 16:1-16 Hagar's Story - Questions for Discussion

1. Did anything trouble you? Why?
2. What are some of the emotional dynamics at work in the rivalry between Sarai and Hagar? Which of these experiences have you experienced yourself?
3. God's messenger told Hagar to return and submit to Sarai, but he also promised her future blessings and countless descendants. Why does God's pattern of interaction with his creation always involve a period of trial and suffering before the promised blessings? Have you noticed this pattern in your own life?
4. How does God behave in contrast to the way the human beings behave?
5. What does Hagar's story highlight most about God? Is this a positive or negative thing for you?



Sarai/Sarah Genesis 17:15-22



Session 1a Reading 2 – Sarai/Sarah – Genesis 17:15-22

15 God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live in your sight!” 19 God said, “No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac.[a] I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. 20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.” 22 And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

Session 1a – Sarai/Sarah Genesis 17:15-22 Questions for Discussion

1. Why do our human choices matter when it comes to God?
2. What might have been the thoughts and emotions of Sarah and Abraham when told they would have a son? Do you think Abraham laughed out of surprise, skepticism, mockery, or joy?
3. The signs of God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah have to do with the human body. For Israelite or Jewish men, the sign of God's covenant is circumcision, for Israelite or Jewish women, it's childbearing.
4. As Christians, the sign of God's covenant is Jesus. It is through his life, death, and resurrection that we find our place in God's creation, and the hope of the life to come. Still, does the way God dealt with Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, our brother and sisters in the faith, give us hope today? Why?

FOR FURTHER READING Genesis 21:1-21

21 The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. 2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." 7 And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." 11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. 13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her

voice and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18 Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. 20 God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.