



Lesson 7 | God’s Grace in Our Self-Made Disasters
Genesis 16:1-16

Choices that make perfect sense to us end up leading to disaster. Fortunately, we serve a God who specializes in bringing beauty out of ashes. In this lesson, Abram, Sarai, and Hagar follow a path that seems right to them, but which quickly unravels. But God steps into this bleak situation with His grace and brings hope where there is none.

The Disaster (16:1-6)

Sarai’s Part – _____

Sarai’s plan to have her slave produce a child on her behalf seems odd to us, but it made perfect sense in her time. When a wife could not provide an heir, she would sometimes offer her servant to provide a child on her behalf. But while it made sense to the world, it was ultimately a lack of faith in God and had disastrous results. To make matters worse, once her plan doesn’t work, Sarai blames her husband.

Hagar’s Part – _____ Conflict

Some assume that Hagar is nothing but a victim here, but the passage makes it clear that once Hagar realized she alone would produce the heir, she despised her mistress. The Bible teaches that it is only through pride that conflict comes (Proverbs 13:10), and here we see the pride of Hagar cause problems in the family.



Lesson 7 | God’s Grace in Our Self-Made Disasters
Genesis 16:1-16

Choices that make perfect sense to us end up leading to disaster. Fortunately, we serve a God who specializes in bringing beauty out of ashes. In this lesson, Abram, Sarai, and Hagar follow a path that seems right to them, but which quickly unravels. But God steps into this bleak situation with His grace and brings hope where there is none.

The Disaster (16:1-6)

Sarai’s Part – _____

Sarai’s plan to have her slave produce a child on her behalf seems odd to us, but it made perfect sense in her time. When a wife could not provide an heir, she would sometimes offer her servant to provide a child on her behalf. But while it made sense to the world, it was ultimately a lack of faith in God and had disastrous results. To make matters worse, once her plan doesn’t work, Sarai blames her husband.

Hagar’s Part – _____ Conflict

Some assume that Hagar is nothing but a victim here, but the passage makes it clear that once Hagar realized she alone would produce the heir, she despised her mistress. The Bible teaches that it is only through pride that conflict comes (Proverbs 13:10), and here we see the pride of Hagar cause problems in the family.

Abram's Part – _____ Leadership

Much like Adam before him, Abram acts a passive husband letting his wife do wrong and not fixing the problem. He allows Sarai to move forward with the plan to begin with, and when it doesn't go the way Sarai wants he allows her to torment Hagar. Rather than solving problems, Abram is ignoring them.

God's Grace (16:7-16)

God _____ Hagar (16:7-8)

This section opens with the incredible statement that the angel of the Lord found Hagar. This story spends a great deal of time on Hagar who is a slave, foreigner, woman, and one who will end up giving birth to one of Isaac's rivals. And yet, the biblical story pauses and focuses in on this woman to show us God's heart and compassion for her.

God _____ Hagar (16:9-12)

The message the angel brings to Hagar is a message with instruction and hope. It begins with the angel telling Hagar to go back and submit to Sarai. But God also gives Hagar an incredible promise – that she will have many descendants – and He lets her know that He has heard her. He tells her that she will have a son, and then gives a prediction about the type of life he would live.

Hagar _____ God (16:13-14)

Hagar's response is fitting – she praises God for seeing and hearing her. She gives one of the most powerful names for God in the Bible – “El Roi” – the God who sees. The name of Ishmael is a similar testimony to God – as the name Ishmael means “God hears.” God sees Hagar and God hears Hagar: this is the humbling truth this Egyptian slave walked away with. It is a wonderful thought that in our affliction, even in our own self-made disasters, God sees us, finds us, and gives us what we need. When He does, the only natural response for us should be to turn in praise to Him.

Abram's Part – _____ Leadership

Much like Adam before him, Abram acts a passive husband letting his wife do wrong and not fixing the problem. He allows Sarai to move forward with the plan to begin with, and when it doesn't go the way Sarai wants he allows her to torment Hagar. Rather than solving problems, Abram is ignoring them.

God's Grace (16:7-16)

God _____ Hagar (16:7-8)

This section opens with the incredible statement that the angel of the Lord found Hagar. This story spends a great deal of time on Hagar who is a slave, foreigner, woman, and one who will end up giving birth to one of Isaac's rivals. And yet, the biblical story pauses and focuses in on this woman to show us God's heart and compassion for her.

God _____ Hagar (16:9-12)

The message the angel brings to Hagar is a message with instruction and hope. It begins with the angel telling Hagar to go back and submit to Sarai. But God also gives Hagar an incredible promise – that she will have many descendants – and He lets her know that He has heard her. He tells her that she will have a son, and then gives a prediction about the type of life he would live.

Hagar _____ God (16:13-14)

Hagar's response is fitting – she praises God for seeing and hearing her. She gives one of the most powerful names for God in the Bible – “El Roi” – the God who sees. The name of Ishmael is a similar testimony to God – as the name Ishmael means “God hears.” God sees Hagar and God hears Hagar: this is the humbling truth this Egyptian slave walked away with. It is a wonderful thought that in our affliction, even in our own self-made disasters, God sees us, finds us, and gives us what we need. When He does, the only natural response for us should be to turn in praise to Him.