

# Wednesday with the Word

## Wheat Street Baptist Church

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### Momma Making Ends Meet: The Miracle Working Power of Momma

Introduction: The Single Mother Reality: Real Issue for a Real Church  
The family as we knew it has changed dramatically. As we look at Hagar in this text tonight we have ask ourselves how is God calling the church to support single mothers? How do we support families who are struggling? How might we serve the family as it has evolved while simultaneously looking for ways to help young people have healthy, long term relationships? I really think we have an opportunity here with the number of longterm marriages in our congregation.

#### **Single Mothers: Thank God for Momma**

[www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org) - report

“The proportion of births to unmarried women has increased greatly in recent decades, rising from five percent in 1960 to 32 percent in 1995. After some stability in the mid-1990s, there was a gradual rise from 1997 through 2008, from 32 to 41 percent. The rate appears to have stabilized again, and was at 40 percent in 2014. The long-term trend toward non-marital births may be attributed, in part, to an increase in cohabiting unions and in births within such relationships. Data for 2014 show an increase among all age groups over 19 years in the share of births that were to unmarried women.

There are large differences by race and Hispanic origin in the share of births to unmarried women, with non-Hispanic white women and Asian or Pacific Islander women much less likely than women in other groups to have a non-marital birth. In 2013, 72 percent of all births to black women, 66 percent to American Indian or Alaskan native women, and 53 percent to Hispanic women occurred outside of marriage, compared with 29 percent for white women, and 17 percent for Asian or Pacific Islander women. However, the difference between black and white women in the percentage of births that are non-marital has been shrinking since

1980, while the difference between white and Hispanic women has been widening.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Part #1: Hagar: The Single Mother**

How do we respond when we have to wait?

Does waiting on God means that God has said, “No?”

How do we know the difference between wait and no?

Genesis 16:1-15

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl 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-girl; 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-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.

Who made the decision for Abram and Hagar to hook up?

Why did he/she make this decision?

Would you have made the same decision?

How does waiting on God affect and effect our decision making process?

### **Hagar, Sarai & Abram: Where is God?**

**Genesis 16:4-15**

**4** He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.

Who looked at who with contempt and why?

Who should she be mad at?

What role has God played in all of this?

**Genesis 16:5-15**

**5** Then Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl 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!”

Where did this come from?

Why is Sarai mad at Abram?

Who has kept them from conceiving?

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=births-to-unmarried-women>

Who is to blame here?

Do we blame God for things that isn't God's fault?

Is God to blame?

Who prompted the decision for Abram and Hagar to hook up?

### **Genesis 16:6**

**6** But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

Wait! Why is Abram so willing to let this thing just happen?

Abram and Sarai have been blessed with a child, a child they wanted, consented to and made happen. How can they now just dismiss Hagar and her child?

Who is to blame for this mess and who is bearing the brunt of the pain?

Why are they bearing the brunt of the blame?

### **Genesis 16:7-16**

**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-girl 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.

How do we reconcile Abram and Sarai actions with God's response to their banishment of Hagar?

Is Abram and Sarai going against the will and ways of God?

How old was Abram when he fathered Ishmael?

How old was Abram when he fathered Issac?

How do you think Hagar and Ishmael were treated from the time Ishmael was born until the time Issac was born?

Why do you think God made Sarah and Abraham wait so long in the first place and then wait again between the births of Ishmael and Issac?

Do you think they knew that waiting didn't mean no?

## **Part #2: Barren to Baby: Two Baby Mommas**

### **Genesis 21:1-7**

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."

Why is Sarah laughing?

Is Hagar laughing?

What is Hagar feeling at this time?

Why is she feeling what you think she maybe feeling?

### **Genesis 21:8-14**

**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.

Why do you think Sarah had issues with the brothers playing together?

What set her off?

Was God speaking through Sarah or did Sarah have issues?

How should Abraham have responded?

Why does it appear that Abraham is always submitting to Sarah?

Was God using Sarah to speak to and provide leadership for their family?

### **Genesis 21:15-21**

**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.

God hears our cry. We need to go to God with our deepest fears and God will hear and God will answer. We see that not only does God hear but God provides. God provided for Hagar and her child. Just as God promised Abraham that God would provide for Ishmael God did. This lets us know that God will do the same for us. When people use us, abuse us and do us wrong (and I am not saying we should allow this to happen or tolerate it) God will give us a way out. God will open a door of escape and when God does we need to take it!