

THE OPENING:

- MOST EVERYONE WILL TALK ABOUT THE THINGS THAT HIGHLIGHT THEIR STRENGTHS, YET GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO IGNORE OUR WEAKNESSES. SO, IF WE EXAMINED THE ROLE OF WEAKNESS IN YOUR LIFE TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH OTHERS LOOK LIKE?
- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE, GOD WANTS US TO SEE THAT OUR WEAKNESSES ARE MERELY GOD'S WAY OF BRINGING US TO OUR KNEES & TOWARD HIM.

THE MAIN POINT:

- GOD DOES THIS, SO WE DO NOT MISS OUT ON HIS PLANS FOR OUR LIVES, AND SO THAT WE EXPERIENCE HIS WONDERFUL PRESENCE, HIS ETERNAL PROMISE, AND HIS LIFE-CHANGING POWER.

GOD KNOWS HOW TO GET OUR ATTENTION, EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT LISTENING:

- HAVE YOU EVER WALKED IN THE RAIN, FEELING CONFIDENT THAT YOU HAD EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL, ONLY TO FIND OUT A LITTLE LATER THAT YOU WEREN'T REALLY AS READY AS YOU THOUGHT?

THE TEXT:

- READ **GEN. 16**
- ABRAM, SARAI, & HAGAR ARE THE KEY CHARACTERS IN OUR BIBLE STORY TONIGHT, AND THEY HELP SHOW US THAT – OUR ONLY HOPE IS IN JESUS.
- **7.** THE ANGEL OF THE LORD FOUND HAGAR BESIDE A SPRING OF WATER IN THE WILDERNESS, ALONG THE ROAD TO SHUR. **8.** THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "HAGAR, SARAI'S SERVANT, WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM, AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

DISCOVER THE PLACES YOU'RE WEAK (IN NEED OF GOD) & REST IN HIS WILL:

- SINCE WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ASKED BY OUR BOSS-ES TO BECOME A MOTHER OR FATHER TO THEIR CHILD, WHAT MIGHT THIS ANCIENT STORY BE SHOWING US?

- HOW MIGHT GOD WANT TO USE OUR WEAKNESSES TO SHOW US THAT OUR REAL NEED IS TO TURN TO GOD, TO TRUST HIM, AND TO TELL OTHERS OF HIS SAVING GRACE.

THE NEXT STEP:

- STOP TO CONSIDER THE LESSONS SARAI, ABRAM, & HAGAR ARE TEACHING US ALL TODAY.
- ASK YOURSELF, IF GOD WANTS YOU TO SEE HOW IMPATIENT YOU HAVE BECOME; HOW IMMORALITY MIGHT BE AT WORK WITHIN YOUR LIFE; AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU MIGHT BE INCONSIDERATE OF THE PLANS OF GOD TO INVOLVE OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE'S STORY AND JOURNEY.

UNTIL WE SEE OUR WEAKNESSES & TURN THEM OVER TO GOD, WE CARRY THEM:

- FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES OR AGAINST GOD WILL ONLY DELAY AND OR POSSIBLY KEEP US FROM SEEING/EXPERIENCING GOD'S PERFECT PLAN.
- FLEEING OR HIDING FROM THE TRUTH THAT GOD IS OUR ONLY HOPE WILL ONLY LEAD TO US EVENTUALLY FALLING SHORT/RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY.

THE CLOSING:

- GOD KNOWS HOW TO DRAW US NEAR WHEN WE FALL ON OUR KNEES
- AS MUCH AS WE BELIEVE THAT INDEPENDENCE IS OUR GOAL, GOD WANTS US TO BE HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE WHO SEEK TO LIVE INTER-DEPENDENTLY WITH GOD (FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT) & HIS PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT.
- ARE YOU WILLING TO LAY DOWN YOUR PLANS IN ORDER TO FOLLOW GOD?
- WILL YOU LET GOD REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU SO HE CAN SPEAK/HELP YOU?
- **2 COR. 11:29** THE APOSTLE PAUL HELPS TO REVEAL THE HEART OF GOD: 'WHO IS WEAK WITHOUT MY FEELING THAT WEAKNESS? WHO IS LED ASTRAY, AND I DO NOT BURN WITH ANGER?'
- **2 COR. 11:30** 'IF I MUST BOAST, I WOULD RATHER BOAST ABOUT THE THINGS THAT SHOW HOW WEAK I AM.'
- **2 COR 12: 9-10** '...I AM GLAD TO BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST CAN WORK THROUGH ME. **10.** THAT'S WHY I TAKE PLEASURE IN MY WEAKNESSES, INSULTS, HARDSHIPS, PERSECUTIONS, AND TROUBLES I SUFFER FOR CHRIST. FOR WHEN I'M WEAK, THEN I'M STRONG.'