

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
GENESIS 16 AND 17 • FEBRUARY 14, 2021

The
P A T R I A R C H S
ABRAHAM

WAITING – GOD’S TOOL FOR SHAPING ABRAM AND SARAI INTO ABRAHAM AND SARAH

WARM UP

What character qualities did you see in someone this week that made you stop and admire? Why?

Abram and Sarah had to wait over 25 years (ages 65 to 90 and 75 to 100) to see their promised heir.
Joseph had to wait 23 years (age 17 to 40) before God’s revealed plan to rule over his family happened.

1. **Why didn’t God just bless them immediately? What did He accomplish in them in all the delay and waiting? Why do we often find waiting on God’s timetable so difficult?** How might it affect our anxiety level if we believed waiting is actually God’s good laboratory where He is carefully and beautifully shaping our faith and character so we can receive even greater blessings now and forever?

“We can choose our sin, but we don’t get to choose the consequences of our sins.”

“Sin always over promises and underdelivers.”

MIKE SLAYDEN

2. **If God ‘s appointed delays and waiting are intentional, how has waiting impacted your life so far?** Discuss the possible results of waiting below and add other things you have experienced.

- It makes me slow down and think about what is really true and important.
- It reveals sin and weakness in my thinking and action.
- It expands my appreciation of God’s greatness.
- It creates time for my trust in Him to grow.

3. **Where are changes still needed in how you wait on God?** Where is waiting hard for you right now? Stop and pray for each other for faith and obedience to our All Sufficient El Shaddai 17:1

4. **What evidence do we have in the passage that even in our bad decisions, harm, and self-inflicted chaos God is still there, faithful, loving, holy and active?** For Hagar? Sarah? Abram? Ishmael? You?

CONCLUDING CHALLENGE

What does it mean to you personally to see our Lord’s healing engagement in the disfunction and chaos in this passage caused by bad choices made in sneaky unbelief? Reflect on this and someone lead the group in expressing their gratitude and worship to Him for the amazing love, patience, hope and grace He lavishes on us His children.