

DESPERATE FOR GOD TO MOVE

A few weeks ago, we began a new series called "Desperate for God to Move." Throughout this series, we're reading various stories in the Bible about people who were desperate for God to move in their lives. Last week, we considered what it means to be desperate for God in the midst of uncertainty. Today, we're going to turn toward the personal. We're considering what it means to be "Desperate for God to Move in My Family." Many in our church are desperate for God to move in their families. It may be with one of their children, a parent, a marriage, or another aspect of family life. Something about family desperation leads us to respond in unhealthy ways. The pain is so close and personal we're often driven to make regrettable choices. Today, we'll see two ways to handle things when we get desperate in our families.

Key Passage: Genesis 16

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the central issue that caused desperation for Abram and Sarai in Genesis 16? How did Sarai propose to solve their problem of infertility, and what was the outcome?
2. What does this story teach us about the consequences of taking matters into our own hands? How does desperation affect our decision-making?
3. What is the significance of Hagar's encounter with the angel of the Lord in the desert? What name did Hagar give to God after her encounter? What does this name mean?
4. What lesson can we learn from Abram and Sarai's decision to act out of desperation rather than faith?
5. How does the story of Hagar and Ishmael relate to the historical tension between Judaism and Islam?
6. What message does the story of Hagar teach us about God's character?
7. What practical steps can we take to avoid making desperate decisions in difficult family situations?
8. What about this lesson has challenged you most? What is your biggest takeaway?