



## SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 16:1-16; Genesis 21:8-21;  
Psalm 142:4-5

May 13, 2018

For starters:

When needing to do what you do not want to do - like saying goodbye or parting company with someone - what motivates you to do it anyway?

If God kept a complaint box and wanted your complaints, what grievance would you put in it?

What are you looking forward to this month?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the three passages in your group. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the texts together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Of the three main characters in the Gen 16 story - Abram, Sarai and Hagar - which do you appreciate the most? The least? Why?
2. Why does God reject their plan? How does He comfort Hagar (Gen 16:7-12)? What does God insist that Hagar submit to Sarai's authority?
3. What does Gen 16 tell you about God? Angels? Human nature?
4. Where, if anywhere, have you been long in waiting for God to fulfill a promise? How have you managed the waiting?
5. From what are you feeling inclined to run?
6. Where have you seen God lately? As a result of that encounter, what name would you give to God or to the place where you met him (as in Gen 16:13-14)? If God is "the God who sees," how does that influence your day to day living (see also Psalm 139:1-12)?
7. Who, like Sarah or Hagar, is one with whom you do not get along? How are you handling the discord? What can you do, if anything, to alter the situation?
8. Like Hagar, where do you need God's comforting? How may Ps 140:4-5 inform your response to this question?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to speak to you. Ask God to help you see Him in your day to day life. Ask God to grant you the refuge and comfort to accept the things you cannot change, the courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Go forth this week in the knowledge that the Lord God Almighty hears your prayers and takes them with utter seriousness.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).