

Looking for helpful
resources?

The Bible
Project



Free Commentary



Read

In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Recall--What's the Sermon Big Idea? Spiritual freedom is never manufactured by human ingenuity; it is inherited through God's divine promise.

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. **The "Do it yourself" Dilemma:** Where in the story of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 16) do we see them try to "manufacture" God's promise by their own effort and ingenuity?
2. What was the difference in status between Abraham's two sons? (4:22) In what way did Hagar typify first-century Jerusalem? (4:25)
3. How did Paul compare Ishmael's persecution of Isaac (Gen 21:9) to the Judaizers' opposition to the Galatian Christians? (4:29-30)
4. **The Identity Reversal:** Traditionally, Jewish people saw themselves as children of Sarah and Gentiles as children of Hagar. How does Paul radically reconfigure these boundary lines in his Christ-centered interpretation of this Old Testament story? How does this passage redefine what it means to be part of God's family?

Heart: Grasping the Internal Transformation

Goal: To examine how the Gospel reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations.

5. **Patience vs. Absence:** The sermon mentioned, "*Never mistake God's patience for His absence.*" Why is it so tempting to step in and "help God" when He seems silent? Can you think of an experience when you did this? Share what you were thinking, feeling, and believing in this trial.
6. **The "Ishmael" in the Heart:** Ishmael was born of "the flesh" (human initiative), while Isaac was born of "the Spirit" (divine promise). How does it feel internally to live a "flesh-driven" spiritual life (anxiety, striving, comparison, etc.) versus a "Spirit-driven" one?

Hands: Grasping Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out. How can I take a step of action in the next week to walk more faithfully as a disciple?

7. **Identifying the "Hagar":** What specific "resourcefulness" are you currently using to try to secure and strive for God's favor or blessing? What would resting in the promises God has for you look like?
8. **The "Cast Out" Command:** Paul uses strong language in verse 30: "*Get rid of (cast out) the slave and her son.*" This isn't a suggestion; it's an eviction. What is one habit, mindset, or "dangerous teaching" you need to aggressively root out this week to preserve your freedom in Christ?