

Wrong Decisions (Genesis 15-17)

Need Direction? – Part 8

Life Church St. Louis – October 12, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Psalm 32:8-9 (NIV) I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

2 Peter 1:3-4a (NIV) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises,

1. God has a _____ for you

Genesis 15:4 (NIV) Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

1A. You are _____ to be a blessing

Genesis 15:5 (NIV) He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

1B. _____ God's promise for you

Genesis 15:6 (NIV) Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

2. Your faith in God's promise will be _____

Genesis 16:1 (NIV) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar;

2A. _____ leads to wrong decisions

Genesis 16:2-3 (NIV) so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.

2B. Wrong decisions _____ relationships

Genesis 16:4-6 (NIV) He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me." "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

2C. Wrong decisions have lasting _____

Genesis 16:11-12 (NIV) The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

3. God gives _____ chances

Genesis 17:17-18 (NIV) Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarai bear a child at the age of ninety?" And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

3A. God will help you _____ your doubts

Genesis 17:19 (NIV) Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

3B. _____ brings the promise to pass

Romans 4:18 (NIV) Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Wrong Decisions (Genesis 15-17) Study Guide

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Intro. Why do you think that some people have trouble following God's direction for their lives (Psalm 32:8-9)?

How would you define a wrong decision?

What are some of the reasons that people make wrong decisions?

What relationship do God's promises have with regard to God's plan for our lives (2 Peter 1:3-4)?

1A. In what ways was God's promise to Abram part of God's plan for his life (Genesis 15:1-4)?

1B. How would Abram's blessing be a blessing to many others (Genesis 15:5, 12:1-3)?

1C. How did Abram respond to God's promise (Genesis 15:6)? What impact did Abram's faith have for eternity?

1D. What kinds of promises affecting eternity does God have for our lives today?

2A. How did the passing of ten years test Abram and Sarai's faith (Genesis 16:1)?

2B. How did Sarai's doubt lead to a wrong decision (Genesis 16:2-3)? What was wrong with the decision?

2C. Why do you think the wrong decision caused relationship issues in Abram's family (Genesis 16:4-6)?

2D. What were the lasting consequences of the birth of Ishmael, down to our day (Genesis 16:11-12)?

2E. What promises of God are we tempted to doubt today?

3A. Why did Abraham find it so hard to believe God (Genesis 17:17-18)?

3B. How did God help Abraham to overcome his doubts (Genesis 17:5-6, 19)?

3C. Why was faith necessary to see the promise fulfilled (Romans 4:18)?

3D. How can God help us recover from wrong decisions in our own lives?