Connect Group 8-21-22

Welcome
Opening Question: What is some really good or really bad advice you have been given?

Worship

Word
Read Genesis 16:1-16 and answer the following questions.
1) What is the problem at the beginning of the chapter?
2) What is Sarai's solution?
3) What seems problematic about Sarai's solution?
4) What immediate problems arise from Abram & Sarai's course of action (verses 4-6)?
5) How does God intervene with Hagar?
6) What two commands does God give to Hagar (vs. 9)?
7) What notable things does He say about her son?
8) What name/description does Hagar give to God? What is notable about this name?
9) What other details are important in this chapter?

Digging Deeper:
1) In chapters 14 & 15, Abraham shows faith and wisdom. How is his response different in this chapter?
2) How does looking at both the good and the bad in Abram's life remind us that spiritual growth takes time and work?
3) This type of surrogacy (child through a concubine/servant) was acceptable in that time and culture. How can this story remind us of the difference between what culture identifies as good & wise and what God says?
4) Why do you think Sarai is so angry with Abram after he followed her advice? Do you think this is fair or unfair?
5) All three people in this chapter made bad decisions. How would you assess each person's bad choices?
6) The choices of Abram, Sarai and Hagar led to interpersonal conflict. We all struggle with sin, even as believers. This can stress relationships. How can we learn to live in peace and with grace with other sinners (such as ourselves)?
7) Abram & Sarai made a big choice without consulting God. How can we learn from their mistake?
8) In this chapter, we see that Sarai was impatient and Abram was passive. What is the problem with both responses?
9) What problems can we get into when we try to 'help' God by acting in our own strength and wisdom?
10) What else stands out to you from this chapter?

Works
Pray for your unsaved friends and family members.