

Defining Moments ~ Step Up, Stand Firm, Stay Focused

2021 Morning Women's Bible Study at The Cove



Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. Proverbs 31:25

- 1. January 12:** "If... Then" *2 Chronicles 7:13-14
Matthew 8:23-27
Mark 4:35-41*
- 2. January 19:** "Biblically Aligned or Deceptively Inclined?" *Genesis 3*
- 3. January 26:** "I have a plan! Good Intentions - Bad Idea!" *Genesis 12-17*
- 4. February 2:** "Holding On: The Impact of Idolatry" *Genesis 19:10-26
Luke 17:20-38*
- 5. February 9:** "Little is Much with God's Touch" *2 Kings 4:1-7*
- 6. February 16:** "In a Minute, Lord: The Lure of Lesser Things" *Luke 9:57-61
Luke 10:38-42*
- 7. February 23:** "A Legacy of Lordship... May it Be So"

Defining Moments

Step Up ~ Stand Firm ~ Stay Focused



Week 3 Session Notes:

“I have a plan! Good Intentions, Bad Idea” - Genesis 12 -17

Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. Proverbs 31:25

God’s blessings are beyond human reasoning. He invites us to walk with Him; this requires faith.

“Abram _____ the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.” Genesis 15:6

An authentic relationship with God occurs as we step out in faith and trust Him. Trust is built as we stand firm upon His Word; believing that God is who He says He is, and will do what He says He will do.

“Everything in your Christian life; everything about knowing Him and experiencing Him, everything about knowing His will, depends on the quality of your love relationship with God. If it is not right, nothing in your life will be right.”

Henry Blackaby (Experiencing God)

Sarai, Abram’s wife, was (Genesis 11:30) _____. Time passed;

Sarah remained barren. Sarah was now (Genesis 18:11)_____.

As God spoke to Abraham; Sarah was (Genesis 18:10) _____;

Sarah (Genesis 18:12) _____, and then (18:15) _____.

Sarai’s confidence in God’s promise to Abraham, that she would bear him a son (**Genesis 17:16**), waned as God’s timing was not her timing. Her ability to “smile at the future” became hinged on her present-day realities. In turn, her flesh usurped her faith, and her actions indicated:

If it’s going to be, it’s up to me!

Hmmmmmm ~ Hagar (Remember the Egyptian “detour”? Genesis 16)

Genesis 21: 1-7: When God’s timing is different than our timing, defining moments emerge; moments in which our faith is tried and our trust in God is tested. These moments reveal our spiritual stance & focus: flesh or faith?

“²³Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. ²⁴Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. ²⁵Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. ²⁶Give careful thought to the[a] paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.” Proverbs 4:23-26

Defining Moments

Step Up ~ Stand Firm ~ Stay Focused



Week 3 Growth Opportunities:

“I have a plan! Good Intentions, Bad Idea” - Genesis 12 -17

Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. Proverbs 31:25

Day 1: The Old Testament invites us to look into the account of lives impacted by God. Today read **Genesis 12:1-20**: What are five facts you discover about Abraham?

1

2

3

4

5

In these passages, what information do you discover about Sarai?

As Chapter 12 concludes, what insights, or cautions, stand out to you regarding human nature?

Day 2: Today enjoy reading **Genesis 13-14**. Please pray before you read these chapters and invite God to give you eyes to see the insights He desires for you to glean:

End your time thanking God for being a personal, powerful, and faithful God who sees you!

Defining Moments

Step Up ~ Stand Firm ~ Stay Focused



Week 3 Growth Opportunities:

“I have a plan! Good Intentions, Bad Idea” - Genesis 12 -17

Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. Proverbs 31:25

Day 3: Let's turn our attention to Chapters 15 & 16. Once again, ask God to guide you in seeing the insights He desires to impart to your heart. In Chapter 15, what stands out to you about God?

About Abraham?

About the events and time frames referenced in verses 12-21?

Such realities may “test” our ability to smile at the days to come. Remember **Hebrews 12:1-2:** we're to focus on God, not our circumstances. It is God, and His Word, that we must rest & rely upon. Read **Genesis 16.** What insights do you glean about Sarai?

What stands out in Chapter 16 as a “Defining Moment” for Sarai?

We also meet Hagar. What insights do these verses provide you with regarding Hagar's plight?

By this time you should be able to identify some things that have taken root in Sarai, and Hagar:

Sarai: _____

Hagar: _____

What was God's instruction for Hagar?

It is here that Defining Moments occurred for Hagar: How did she respond to God?

Take a moment to look up El Roi. What does it mean?

This realization was a powerful one for Hagar; and can be for each of us as well. How?

Defining Moments

Step Up ~ Stand Firm ~ Stay Focused



Week 3 Growth Opportunities:

“I have a plan! Good Intentions, Bad Idea” - Genesis 12 -17

Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. Proverbs 31:25

Day 4: I hope you have gained some insights about human nature and how our natural inclinations can collide with Divinely appointed moments in which we are faced with choices to give in to: fear, impatience, lack of faith, envy, bitterness, avoidance... and the inclination to take matters into our own hands (Usually doesn't work out so well!) Sarai, Abraham, and Hagar each made choices when they took matters into their own hands; choices that had significant impact. How thankful we can be with the reality of “ But God.”

See: **Romans 8:28** In what ways do you see God's redemptive movement in each of their lives?

Take time to close your study today in prayer; thanking God for His mercy, forgiveness, patience, and promise to work all things together for good... In His timing, and in His ways!

Day 5: We'll wrap up this week by reading **Genesis 17**. There are significant things that occur in these verses. What are some that stand out to you about God:

About Abram?

And about Sarai?

What was God's purpose for the name changes He appointed for Abram and Sarai?

Isaiah 54:10 is a wonderful passage to close our week with. What does it say?

Lamentations 3:23 states that God's mercies are new every morning! Great is His faithfulness! Let this verse guide you as you conclude your time today. Indeed, God sees you & has a plan for you!
