

### **For Further Study**

(Please use on your own, with a friend, or in your small group.)

1. Do a short study on famous barren women of the Bible. Look up and read the following texts. Genesis 16.2; 25.21, 29.31, 30.1; 1 Samuel 1.1-20 (especially verse 6); Judges 13 (especially verse 2); and Luke 1 (especially verse 7). Were you surprised by who these women were and how God opened up their wombs? What did you notice about the children God eventually gave each of these Moms?
- 2.
3. What does this little study of barren women in the Bible teach you about God? His timing? Prayer? Patience? And obedience? Take some time to think prayerfully about this. Write down your reflections.
4. Read Genesis 16.7-14. What does God do for Hagar? And what is Hagar's response to God? Now what does this teach you about our God? What can you learn from Hagar's life at this point?
5. Notice the phrase "the angel of the Lord" throughout Genesis 16.7-14. Who do you think this is? Hint: Genesis 16.13 says, "Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are a God who sees'; for she said, 'Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?'"

What did Hagar believe about "the angel of the Lord"?

Read other appearances in Genesis to learn more about "the angel of the Lord," like Genesis 22.11-18 and 31.11-13. Check a good Bible concordance for other Old Testament references as well. What did you find?

6. Ishmael. What do you know about the son that Abram had with Hagar? Nothing? Only a little? Read on in the Book of Genesis and notice the nature of the relationship between Ishmael (and the Ishmaelites) and Isaac (and the Israelites). Is there any connection you can make between the descendants of Ishmael and the descendants of Isaac today? Hint: the relationship between many Muslims and Jews.

Share what you are learning with a friend and pray for one another.