

## STAY CONNECTED!

Looking for a Life Group or just want to keep up to date with the latest on Every Nation Brisbane's events or podcasts?

Download the free app and stay connected.  
Available on the *Apple App Store* and *Google Play*.



**EVERY NATION**  
BRISBANE

© 2019 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

[www.enbrisbane.org](http://www.enbrisbane.org)



### PRAYER

God, please teach us that we are all in a process of refinement, because you desire to see us fulfil your purposes in us. May people see that in our process, you are real, and that your love for them is real, as well! We love you Jesus, Amen!

### WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What is a past goal that had the hardest challenges you had to overcome? How did you respond to those challenges?

### NOTES

## WORD

<sup>1</sup> Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. <sup>2</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. <sup>3</sup> So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. <sup>4</sup> And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. <sup>5</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" <sup>6</sup> But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." <sup>9</sup> The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." <sup>10</sup> The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." <sup>11</sup> And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant  
and shall bear a son.

You shall call his name Ishmael,  
because the Lord has listened to your affliction.

<sup>12</sup> He shall be a wild donkey of a man,  
his hand against everyone  
and everyone's hand against him,  
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

<sup>13</sup> So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." <sup>14</sup> Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

<sup>15</sup> And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. <sup>16</sup> Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

[Genesis 16:1-16](#) (ESV)

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = fully doubtful, 10 = fully convinced), how would you rate your faith in God to keep his promises? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. When Sarah and Abraham doubted God would fulfil his promise, they tried to create their own solution in Ishmael. What are some examples you have seen in your life or other people's lives when it has been hard to trust God?
3. What are some of the "Ishmaels" you've seen in your life? (i.e. human attempts to fulfil God's promises).
4. Are you afraid to ask God what his will is, because you fear what he might say about it?
5. How does Jesus want us to respond to situations where factors and outcomes are completely unknown? What would that look like in your life?

## PRAYER LIST