

Christianity & Islam

Key Scriptures: Genesis 16, 21

Genesis 16:1-3, 10-12 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. ³ Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. 10-12 The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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."

Gen. 21:10 ¹⁰ Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

Rom. 4:5 *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,*

Psalm 86:15 *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*

Key Point: The gospel of Jesus Christ stands uniquely apart from Islam and every other belief system because salvation is not earned through submission or works, but received by grace alone through faith in Christ alone.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What do you think all people—regardless of religion—are ultimately seeking in life?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- Genesis 16 & 21 show how Abraham and Sarah tried to fulfill God's promise of having a son by their own means. What does this teach us about trusting God's timing versus taking matters into our own hands?
- What did you learn from the sermon about the major differences between Islam and Christianity (Perspectives of God, Jesus, God's character, Salvation etc.). Which of these differences stands out to you most, and why is it so significant?
- What do the following passages teach us about God's character? Exod 34:6-7. Neh. 9:17. Psa. 145:8, Micah 7:18. Deut. 32:4.
- John 1, Colossians 1, and Hebrews 1 all identify Jesus as God. Why is the identity of Jesus (God vs. prophet) such a dividing line between Christianity and other religions?
- The Bible's plan of salvation is based on four cardinal truths:
 1. The holiness of God.
 2. The sinfulness of man; not just actions, but in his intrinsic nature.
 3. The inability of man to save himself.
 4. The undeserved grace of God.Salvation is completely a work accomplished by Jesus on the cross. It becomes ours not by working but by trusting. The sermon emphasized "Christ plus nothing" for salvation. If this is true, then why is it so easy (even for Christians) to drift into a "Christ plus something" mindset?
- Islam teaches submission through works, while Christianity teaches salvation by grace. How does each system shape a person's view of God, themselves, and their assurance of salvation?
- How does the biblical teaching on the sinfulness of our nature (not just actions) change the way we understand our need for Christ?
- What are some practical ways we can grow in understanding, compassion, and reaching out toward Muslims without compromising biblical truth?

Start doing: If you have friends or neighbors who are Muslim, pray for them. Begin to learn more about the beliefs and culture of Islam, and how you might have conversations sharing your faith.

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

-
-