

# SHAKEN

## Small Group Discussion

### When Hope Hides

Character Study: Abraham (Genesis 15 & 16)

#### Getting Started

- Patience can be difficult. Share an experience from the recent past where your patience has been sorely tested?
- Do you trust people who keep promises? Why?

#### Static Questions

- **What was the passage about?**
  - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
  - Pay attention to the main *points* of the passage.
- **What did you learn?**
  - What did the passage reveal about God? About people?
  - Was there a promise or command or a warning?
  - What is the big idea of the passage?
  - What lessons do you see?
- **How will you apply it?**
  - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
  - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this message?
  - How should you respond based on what you learned?

#### From the Teaching this Morning

- We heard in brief about the conflict between Sarai & Hagar in Genesis 16.5-15 this morning. Take a look at Genesis 21.8-21.
  - How are these two accounts similar? How are they different?
  - What were the causes and results of each?
- What future event was God referring to in Genesis 15.13-14? (Hint, see Exodus 3.20-22; 12.33-36)
- Most—if not all—of us experience doubt on this journey of faith. Have you ever doubted God? Either his very existence or his ability to do what he has promised?
  - How can the story of Abram and Sarai help you as you struggle with doubt?
  - Sten-Erik often says, “God’s timing is always perfect, but it is seldom convenient.” How is God’s timing different from ours? Does understanding that difference make it easier or harder to wait on him?

#### Application Questions & Suggestions

- Reflect on seasons of waiting: How did God mercifully sustain you through the waiting promise?
- How does God’s character give you confidence that he will do exactly as he has said? If you don’t have that confidence, why not? How can your group encourage and pray for you as you seek to better understand the character of God even in uncertain times?
- How do you see God acting in your life even now to remind you of his promises for you?
- Think about Abram’s experiences of seeing promises delayed. How does his experience lend perspective to our lives as we wait for the return of Jesus? What does Abram’s experience teach us as we wait?