

A. Don't let your Circumstances overshadow God

1. What was the defining characteristic of Sarah's life? How could that eat away at her soul?

2. What factors made the situation particularly hard?

3. How can we let circumstances define who we are?

4. What different steps are there in the downward spiral when we view God through the lens of our problems?

5. Why is it so easy to let circumstances overshadow God?

6. What are the signs of a solution being of our own making rather than God's? What parallels do you notice between what Sarah does (Gen 16) and what Eve does (Gen 3)?

- 2. Let God overshadow your circumstances**
7. What is so amazing about God's response to Sarah in Gen 17? What relevance does that have to us? How should we feel?

8. How can we actively pursue a big vision of God? In other words how can we keep God in the forefront of our thinking?

9. What characteristics of God should we be driving home into our thinking?

10. We are called to do the hard work of remembering God, admitting sin, repenting and trusting – why is this better for us than taking the easy solution?

11. Why do you think God made Sarah wait so long? What purpose has he in making us wait at times?

- 3. God is a God who turns hurt into Joy**
12. How does the truth of this statement help us when we have to wait, or trust God with really difficult decisions?

13. Where do you find it hardest to trust God? Out of this study what do you think will help break that cycle?

14. How does looking at the Cross help us to grow in our trust of God?