

A Mother's Overcoming Love – May 11 & 12, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Genesis 16

- Explain Sarai, Abram and Hagar's relationship dynamics (1-4). Why would Hagar grow to hate Sarai? What did Sarai and Abram argue about (5-6)? How would you sum up the way they treated Hagar? Where do you see this sort of dynamic at play in the world today, and what is God calling the church to do about it?
- What did Hagar do (6)? Who found her (7)? Summarize her conversation with the angel (8-12). How did she respond to this encounter (13)? She had so much to overcome and the angel's words weren't exactly uplifting. So why do you think Hagar responded as she did? Even in your deepest pain, may you also recognize that God sees you and is with you.
- Read the passage again, imagining yourself as Hagar: a runaway slave, impregnated by her rapist. And yet, she knew God was with her. As you engage in this way, what is the Spirit speaking?

Day Two: Luke 1:26-38

- What is the setting of this text (26-27)? What did the angel initially say to Mary (28)? Why do you think she was "greatly troubled at his words"? No matter how warm the greeting, how do you think you'd respond to an angelic visit?
- How did the angel reassure Mary, and what did he say would happen (30-33)? Why did she wonder how this could be possible (34)? What did the angel then explain (35-37)? Meditate on the angel's final words: "no word from God will ever fail." How does this truth help you to live as an overcomer?
- What was the last thing Mary said to the angel (38)? While initially scared and confused, she said "yes" to God. Bring to mind times you walked by faith, and not by sight. How did it feel? What about life right now: where do you crave certainty but are instead called to again walk by faith? Speak to the Lord about this.

Day Three: John 2:1-12

- Set the scene (1-2). Describe the exchange between Jesus and his mother (3-4). What do you make of this? Do you interact with Jesus as though he can do the impossible? Why or why not?
- What did Mary say to the servants (5)? Why do you think she said this? Imagine Mary saying these words to you: do whatever he tells you. What is Jesus telling you to do, and will you do it?
- Summarize what the servants then did (6-8). Despite reluctance, why do you think Jesus decided to make this miracle happen? Describe the banquet master's reaction to it (9-10). Meditate on his words at the end of verse 10: you have saved the best till now. Apply this to your own life. Ask God to help you trust that you *will* overcome obstacles and that your best days are ahead of you.
- What is John's take on this event (11)? When was the first time God showed *you* his glory – his very best? How did you respond? How does his glory help us to live as overcomers?

Day Four: John 19:16-27

- How does John begin his account of the crucifixion (16-17)? Who was crucified alongside Jesus (18)? Describe the subplot of the notice Pilate prepared (19-22). Why do you think John included this piece of the story? What do you think of it?
- While on the cross, what did the soldiers do to Jesus (23-24)? What scripture did this fulfill (24)? Read all of Psalm 22, King David's own passionate plea of the difficult journey to overcome. For whatever words echo your own current predicament, read them aloud to the Lord. What is his response?
- Who stood near Jesus' cross (25)? Imagine their emotions, body language, inner thoughts, etc. What do you see, especially when you look at Jesus' mother? Often, in order to overcome, we must engage suffering just as these women did. What does that mean for you today? Describe Jesus' exchange with his mother and his beloved disciple (26-27). Why do you think Jesus said this?

Day Five: 1 Peter 4:12-16

- What should not surprise us (12)? Why (12)? Peter begins with "dear friends;" imagine him speaking this sentence to you as a close friend. What hardships surprise you? How do you typically work through the accompanying feelings? Ask the Lord to help you approach "fiery ordeals" as an overcomer.
- What should we rejoice in (13)? Why (13)? When do you get to "participate in the sufferings of Christ"? When are you overjoyed? Consider how suffering can be like a gateway to God's glory. Pray for grace to face suffering in this manner, as an overcomer!
- When does the Holy Spirit rest on us (14)? What sorts of suffering should believers *not* expect to endure (15)? Rather than be ashamed, how should we respond to suffering (16)? A life of praise, lived in both word and deed, can help us to overcome what befalls us. Today, take one step to start living that life more faithfully. Pray for grace to keep it up.