

Day One: Genesis 16:1-13

- Explain Sarai, Abram and Hagar's relationship dynamics (1-4). Why do you think Hagar grew to hate Sarai? What did Sarai and Abram argue about (5-6)? How would you describe the character maturity and spirituality of each person thus far?
- 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)? Considering all that she'd been through, and that the angel's words weren't particularly comforting, why do you think Hagar responded as she did? In all of life, even in your darkest moments, God can reveal himself to you in a fresh and powerful way. Pray this would be your experience in 2018.
- Re-read this passage and imagine yourself as Hagar: a slave, a pregnant victim, a runaway. And yet, she saw God and was seen by him. As you reflect, what is the Holy Spirit speaking?

Day Two: Jeremiah 1:4-19

- What did God say to Jeremiah (5)? How did he respond (6)? How do you think you would respond? When you sense the Lord calling you to action, what is normally your focus: your limitations or God's limitless capabilities and faithfulness? Pray you would be someone who focuses on the latter. What are some practical ways to move toward this identity?
- What reassurances does God offer to doubting Jeremiah (7-10, 17-19)? Today, what reassurance and reminders do you need to hear from the Lord? Ask him to speak them to you now, then sit in silence for a minute or two. What might God be saying?
- God reassures Jeremiah not just in word, but also in deed. What did he do (11-16)? Recall times when God has reaffirmed his call on your life by actively showing you something or moving in a powerful way. Thank him for those moments, and ask for more.

Day Three: Mark 1:35-39

- Set the scene of this text (35). What did Jesus do (35)? Jesus made space; he turned away from other tasks in order to spend time with his Father. What do you normally do in order to experience God? Early in this New Year, try a few additional practices and settle on one that enriches your time with God.
- Who looked for Jesus (36)? When they found him, what did they say (37)? Why do you think they seemed so exasperated? What might they have failed to notice and discern? This year, especially when you pray, what new things do you hope to notice?
- How did Jesus respond to his disciples (38)? What happened next (39)? If Jesus had not often gone away to "a solitary place" to pray, do you think he would've fully understood his purpose? What clarity does regular interaction with God bring to your life?

Day Four: 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 angel?
- 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: "for no word from God will ever fail." When have you experienced this truth? In what areas of your life do you await fulfillment of God's word?
- What was the last thing Mary said to the angel (38)? She was initially troubled, then confused but ultimately willing. When have you experienced shifts like this? How do you think God feels about such transformations? Ask him to highlight one situation where he's waiting for you to be willing. Respond to the Lord.

Day Five: Acts 22:3-21

- Upon his arrest, what did Paul say to the crowd about his past (3-5)? Summarize his conversion experience (6-13). Paul first asks God who he is, then asks what he should do. Do you ever get this order mixed up? Pray for grace to respond to God's call in the right order: first focusing on him, then on action.
- What did Ananias testify to Paul about his calling (14-16)? Recall times when another person has echoed the Lord's call on your life. Thank him for such moments of confirmation, and pray for more.
- What happened to Paul in Jerusalem (17-21)? In verse 15 Ananias said Paul would "be his witness to all people" and here in verse 21 God says, "Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles." When God begins to call us in a general sense and reveals specifics only as we proceed in obedience, it can be quite the roller coaster experience. Pray for faithfulness and strength to endure such journeys of calling.