

Digging Deeper: Faith Fuels Faithful Mission

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THE MAIN THEME

God is on a mission to redeem a people from all peoples to reflect His glory in every realm of life. But when we exhibit fear instead of exercising faith, we cloud God's glory, complicate His kingdom work, and confuse the watching world. Genesis 16 shows how Abraham and Sarah's impatience and insecurity led to pain, pride, and relational breakdown. Yet even in the complication, God reveals His character—He finds, He hears, He sees, and He overcomes.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Genesis 16:13

"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me.'"

WHAT NOT TO MISS

1. Fear Clouds Mission

When we doubt God's timing or sufficiency ("Perhaps I can build..."), we step into control. Fear distorts identity, provision, and trust.

2. Fear Produces Complications

Blame-shifting, passivity, pride, wounded relationships, and conflict followed Abraham and Sarah's decision. Failing to exercise faith complicated the mission.

3. The World Watches Our Response

When God's people cloud His glory, unbelief becomes emboldened. Scripture shows this pattern repeatedly (Joshua 7; 1 Samuel 17; Romans 2).

4. Faith Reflects God's Character

Exercising faith looks like worship, humility, generosity, obedience, and resting in being chosen.

5. God Overcomes Our Cloudiness

Even when we complicate things, God steps in. He finds Hagar. He hears her misery. He sees her suffering. God's grace breaks through both our fear and the world's pride.

LIFE APPLICATION

Ask yourself this week:

Am I exercising faith—or exhibiting fear?

Fear often looks practical, responsible, even logical. But underneath it may be panic, control, or self-protection. Faith rests in God's promises, even when circumstances feel delayed. Mission moves forward when we trust that God is enough.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

MONDAY — Resting in Identity

Read: Genesis 16:1–4

Reflect: Whose identity are you resting in?

Pray: “Lord, help me rest in being chosen by You.”

TUESDAY — Provision and Peace

Read: Matthew 6:31–33

Reflect: Is peace or panic driving your decisions?

Pray: “Teach me to trust You as my provider.”

WEDNESDAY — Justice and Trust

Read: Romans 12:17–21

Reflect: Who are you trusting to be the judge?

Pray: “Help me entrust wrongs to You.”

THURSDAY — God Who Sees

Read: Genesis 16:7–14

Reflect: God finds and sees those who feel forgotten.

Pray: “Thank You for seeing me, even in my mistakes.”

FRIDAY — Living for God's Glory

Read: 1 Peter 2:11–12

Reflect: Does your life clarify or cloud God's glory?

Pray: “May my life point others to You.”

FACILITATOR TIPS

- Ask: *“What does exhibiting fear look like today?”*
 - Invite honest reflection about control, money, reputation, relationships.
 - Emphasize that fear complicates—but grace restores.
 - End with prayer for clarity and courage.
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THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Identify one area where fear may be driving your response:

- Pause before making a decision
- Confess control or impatience
- Choose obedience over comfort
- Rest in God’s promises instead of manufacturing results

Then follow through.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What fears most often cloud God’s glory in our lives?
 2. How did Sarah’s fear distort her view of God?
 3. How does exhibiting fear embolden unbelief?
 4. What does exercising faith practically look like?
 5. How does knowing God “sees” you change your perspective?
 6. Where are you tempted to “build your own platform”?
 7. How can our group encourage faith over fear?
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PRAYER POINTS

CONNECT

Thank God for being faithful even when we are fearful.

CARE

Pray for those struggling with anxiety, impatience, or control.

CULTIVATE

Ask God to grow deep trust in His promises.

COMMISSION

Pray that our lives would reflect God's glory clearly to the world.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, forgive us for the ways fear has clouded Your glory in our lives. Teach us to exercise faith instead of exhibiting fear. Help us trust Your timing, Your promises, and Your presence. Thank You for being the God who sees, hears, and overcomes. Use our lives to reflect Your glory clearly. Amen.