



# GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1. ***Review Gospel Appointment documents and distribute people to follow-up with from planning center.***

2. **Moreau Heights Staff Family Ice Cream Social** — This event is a chance to love on the teacher's family, especially their children of Moreau Heights. We need help manning the bouncy house, carnival games, cotton candy and ice cream. Set up will be at 5:45 pm at Ellis Porter (Riverside) Park at the large shelter. The families arrive at 6:30 pm. The event goes till 8 pm and will need help with clean up afterwards. Instead of Gospel Community we will be serving Moreau Heights Staff and their families.

**- Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup> 5:45p at Ellis Porter (Riverside) Park**

3. **Planning Center** — **PLEASE** setup your Planning Center account ASAP so we can best communicate with and honor you as our volunteers. Go to [planningcenteronline.com](http://planningcenteronline.com), connect to our church, and sign up for text alerts.

4. **Covenant Membership** - Church membership is a covenant relationship. We're accountable to God & one another. Worship attendance, service, communion, the ministry of the Word, submission to elders, & holiness aren't arbitrary requirements of membership but mandatory commands of Jesus. If you want to join Soma come to our class!

**- 2pm; Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>!**

5. **Baptism** - Baptism is a clear command of the Lord Jesus Christ for all believers. This is why it is one of the ordinances of the Christian Church (the Lord's Supper being the other). Believer baptism in water reflects a prior inward cleansing (1 Pet. 3:21) when the person was born again (Jn. 3:3, 5), made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), and offers an opportunity for this new believer to profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ publicly. If you want to be baptized please go to [somajc.org/membership/baptism/](http://somajc.org/membership/baptism/)

**- Sunday August 18th during the Sunday gathering**

# QUESTIONS

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## Read Genesis 16:1-16

Being patient has become one of the most difficult things to accomplish in the 21st century.

We are scheduled, timed, measured, qualified, disqualified daily- sometimes hourly upon how quickly and how much we can get done. The anticipation and expectancy is tremendous.

It's not surprising that we might take shortcuts as we attempt to meet deadlines at work, drive across town or even in record time– not read assembly instructions- Just so we can meet the expectation of a timeline. A timeline that WE have created in the name of Productivity, or – to be the first to conquer the obstacle of how long it might take.

We sometimes think that we know best!

Just follow me- I know what is right for my life!!! It should be fine for yours!

Abram and Sarai were the same way when you boil it down. They heard Gods direction for their lives- (fell to the ground in laughter) and decided to get on with their lives THEIR WAY. They had seen this before in Egypt during the drought. By now they knew to wait for Gods prompting. Instead they took the shortcut. They put baby making before Gods timing and decided to show God how to get the job done! Once again- they stepped out with their own agenda, making another weird blunder.

Truth is, we are no different. We make blind desperate decisions every day.

Still, God's grace and forgiveness is the first thing to show up. God turned impatience and corrupt actions into a vehicle to put his plans for Abram & Sarai into motion. You see God works throughout our circumstances when things in our lives don't make sense. His plan WILL complete itself whether we like it or not.

**1. Have you ever felt God leading you to do something without revealing an explanation for it?**

[Just because something doesn't make sense, doesn't mean it is senseless]

**2. Have you ever felt that God isn't there? That he has left you to figure it out on your own?**

\*\*Ask the group to give scriptures that tell us God keeps his eyes on us.

[Jerimiah 29:11 assures us there is a plan. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 assures that we are not forsaken. Isaiah 41:10 is the most compelling verse of Gods presence in our lives]

**3. Have you ever wondered why God seems at times to be holding you in an undesirable situation instead of delivering you from it?**

[God is preparing us to handle his plan for us. 2 Timothy 2:5-7 teaches us to endure to the end. 2 Peter 3:8-9 reminds us Gods timing is sometimes long in

coming. Romans 8:28 affirms that if we keep our trust in God- things will turn out alright]

**4. What do you think Hagar was really saying to herself in vs. 13?**

[Hagar has an Egyptian heritage. Egyptians worshiped a number of Gods.

Perhaps she realized in that moment who she was talking with, perhaps that is why she was compelled to return to Sarai after running for her life. Maybe a time of redemption for Hagar]

[perhaps she felt a desperation. That she was in a hopeless situation. This is the moment when we really hear God speaking to us. The time that God is most real to us]