

Youth Worship

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP ON-LINE!

Let our hearts be ready to welcome the Word of God, and may time with our Lord bring sweetness to our souls!

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COME AND WORSHIP

The superscription of Psalm 92 tells us that the Psalm was written as a song for the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day was not just a day of rest. The people were commanded to keep the day holy (Exodus 20:8). The faithful would worship God either in public or in their private homes. In this Psalm, we catch a glimpse of worship on the Sabbath.

***“It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night.”***

PSALM 92:1-2

1. Reflect on the name of God
 - a. God is the center of our worship
 - b. His name represents who He is
 - c. We are reminded of God’s proclamation of His name in Exodus 34:6:

“The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious,
longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.”
2. Recount the blessings of God
 - a. God’s blessings come in many forms
 - b. Two aspects highlighted for us to consider
 - i. His lovingkindness
 - ii. His faithfulness

3. Respond with thanksgiving

- a. Give thanks to the LORD
- b. Sing songs of praise to His name
- c. Declare the wonderful truths about Him

Taking time to reflect on God's name and to recount His blessings are good practices to cultivate, not only during Youth Worship alone, but also every morning and night. When our hearts and minds are saturated with the thoughts of God and His goodness towards us, heartfelt thanksgiving and praise would flow from us.

As we celebrate Bethany's 40+8 Anniversary, let us be thankful for God's stupendous blessings! The Lord's lovingkindness and faithfulness are evidenced in His abundant provision! Physically, we have a beautiful place of worship and we are not in lack. Spiritually, our souls have been nourished by the Word of God continually taught to us through the ministries in Bethany.

May we always be challenged to reflect on the name of God, recount His blessings and respond with thanksgiving!



ORDER OF WORSHIP



YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE 14 AUGUST 2021

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

Opening Prayer

Message:

Pastor Charles Tan

“Do not let it be displeasing in your sight”

Genesis 21:8-21

Closing Prayer



REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

Let us review what we have learnt at Youth Worship last week!

YWS MESSAGE - 7 AUGUST 2021

“CAST OUT THIS BONDWOMAN AND HER SON”

GENESIS 21:8-21

INTRODUCTION

(A QUICK REVIEW)

1. Sarai's idea to have Hagar bear a son for Abraham Genesis 16
2. A difficult relationship arose between Sarai and Hagar
 - a) Sarai treated Hagar badly
 - b) Hagar fled but was encouraged to return Genesis 16
3. Difficult relationships are usually difficult to resolve
 - a) Time does not necessarily help to improve things
 - b) Tolerance can go so far and no more

A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE FAMILY

1. Sarah had become a mother
2. Motherly instincts grew on her
3. Celebration of Isaac's Weaning Genesis 21:8
 - a) This was not a religious event
 - b) It was a family milestone
 - i) Isaac was born
 - ii) He was circumcised
 - iii) He was now weaned



AN UNFORTUNATE RESPONSE OF HAGAR

1. She was there at the Feast
2. She was scoffing at Isaac
3. Sarah noticed Ishmael scoffing Genesis 21:9
 - a) This was uncalled for
 - b) This was unwise
 - c) This reflected a negative attitude
 - d) The word “scoffing” is a play on words
Its root idea is “laughing”
 - e) Laughter
 - i) Abraham’s laughter Genesis 17:17
 - ii) Sarah’s laughter Genesis 18:12-13
 - iii) Sarah’s (new) laughter Genesis 21:6
 - iv) Ishmael’s scoffing (laughter) Genesis 21:9

HUGE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

1. Sarah’s demand of Abraham
 - a) Hagar and her son were to be cast out
“Cast out this bondwoman and her son” Genesis 21:10a
 - b) The question of being an heir
“For the son of this bondwoman shall not
be heir with my son, namely with Isaac.” Genesis 21:10b

2. Reasons for this demand

a) A mother's instinct to protect her son

- i) Ishmael would always be the older half-brother
- ii) He would be the stronger
- iii) Hagar would protect her son too
- iv) Ishmael's scoffing at Isaac was understood as something he had picked up from Hagar
- v) Scoffing is derisive

It comes from an attitude of despising

Genesis 16:4

b) Carnal Human reasoning

- i) Sarah and Abraham were old
- ii) The sons were automatically joint heirs
- iii) If Sarah died, she would not be able to protect Isaac
- iv) She would not have Ishmael as an heir of Abraham
- v) She was aware of how Hagar would influence her son negatively

3. Hagar and Ishmael

- a) Hagar was technically a bondwoman (a female slave)
- b) She may have had a child with Abraham but her status remained the same

c) She would forever be a bondwoman in the family!

d) Hagar was the greater threat and Sarah wanted her out of the picture completely

ABRAHAM WAS CAUGHT IN A DILEMMA

1. Wives

Sarah and Hagar were officially wives of Abraham

2. Sons and Heirs

Isaac and Ishmael were legitimate sons and heirs of Abraham

3. What was the correct response?

- a) How should Abraham respond?
- b) He could not come up with an answer

THE SINS OF THE PAST HAD CAUGHT UP WITH THEM IN THE PRESENT!

1. Unbelief was a key problem

- a) God had promised to give Abraham a son Genesis 15:4
- b) Sarai was his wife
- c) Thus, she would become the mother of the promised son
- d) But there was a severe lack of faith
and she offered Hagar as a wife to Abraham Genesis 16

2. Carnality was another problem

- a) This was expressed in lying
- b) An underlying problem was that of deceit
 - i) Lying and deceiving the Pharaoh Genesis 12
 - ii) Lying and deceiving King Abimelech Genesis 20
- c) A third expression was that of anger Genesis 16:5
- d) A fourth expression was cruelty (harshness) Genesis 16:6
- e) Anger and cruelty came up again Genesis 21

CONCLUSION

1. Be challenged to cultivate a strong faith in God
2. Seek to overcome sins and weaknesses in life
They have a tendency to become problematic if they remain unresolved!
3. Cultivate a relationship with God
The Lord is ever willing to help, as seen in the lives of Abraham and Sarah
 - a) To teach
 - b) To guide
 - c) To protect

REFLECTION

WRITTEN BY TESSA KANG

The faithfulness of God

Abraham's journey of faith was one that had not been smooth-sailing. We have seen how he had stumbled from time to time when he chose to rely on his own understanding. However, despite the challenges and weaknesses, the Lord remained faithful to the end. He continued to provide for Abraham and blessed him with children -Isaac and Ishmael. Last week, we saw how relying on one's human understanding can lead to grave consequences through Sarah's negative example.

The birth of Ishmael

Ishmael was the first child of Abraham, conceived by Hagar when Abraham and Sarah faltered in their faith and decided to fall back on their 'human plan' of conceiving an heir. Ishmael's birth had resulted in conflict in the family, as it had stirred vengeful feelings in Sarah, who saw Hagar as a great threat.

Sarah's problems of unbelief and flawed human reasoning

Instead of choosing to focus on her faith in the Lord, Sarah relied on her own carnal human reasoning; knowledge borne by the flesh. She had allowed her mother's instinct to protect Isaac's inheritance as well as her vengeful emotions to take over her. This led her to make the cruel decision of demanding Abraham to cast Ishmael and Hagar out.

Previously, Sarah had despised and mistreated Hagar, which drove Hagar to flee from her master (Genesis 16). Years later, Sarah's ill feelings towards Hagar remained unchanged and she continued to deem Hagar as just a 'bondwoman.'

Sarah's poor treatment of Hagar was a result of two deep-seated problems. Firstly, it stemmed from a heart of unbelief. She failed to place her trust in the Lord's promise that Isaac would be the promised son (Genesis 15:4). Instead, she allowed her fears and insecurities to overwhelm her. She knew she would not be able to protect Isaac from Hagar and Ishmael after her death. Secondly, she chose to rely on her own human understanding, letting her rage and anger fuel her. Her decision to cast Hagar and Ishmael out would inflict much pain on them.

Cultivating a strong faith

Like Sarah, I too, sometimes allow my unbelief and human understanding to drive my choices. This has led me to make unwise decisions in my life.

Despite these setbacks in our faith, it is important for us to return to the Lord and His Word. It is heartening to know that the Lord has always been with us, at every step of the way, teaching and guiding us with His Word. Let's seek to go beyond repentance of our sins, to grow our relationship with the Lord and learn to be more conscious of the Lord each day. May we seek to battle unbelief by cultivating a strong and vibrant faith in the Lord!



AND HE BELIEVED IN THE LORD

“And he believed in the LORD;”
This describes Abram’s faith in God.
He had listened and obeyed God’s Call;
He had left even his family, he had left All.

Abram still struggled in his faith in the LORD;
Hence there were missteps in following God.
Once again, God spoke to him encouragingly;
At last, he was able to express faith in God truly.

“And He accounted it to him for righteousness;”
This describes God’s attribution of holiness.
Abram would still have to battle many sins;
But by God’s grace, he had received cleansing.

When we come to faith in the LORD;
Righteousness is imputed to us by God.
We are declared to be just and holy;
This is made possible by God’s mercy!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Genesis 15:1-7

ANNOUNCEMENT

Resumption of On-Site Youth Worship

We resume on-site Youth Worship on 21 August 2021. Thank God we can look forward to returning to our beloved Bethany and worshipping the Lord with hearts of thanksgiving and joy! Please plan to register early.

Click or scan
the QR Code
to register:



Bethany 40+8 Anniversary Month

We thank God for His manifold blessings bestowed upon Bethany these past 48 years. Let us choose to praise God for His Presence, Protection and Provision experienced!

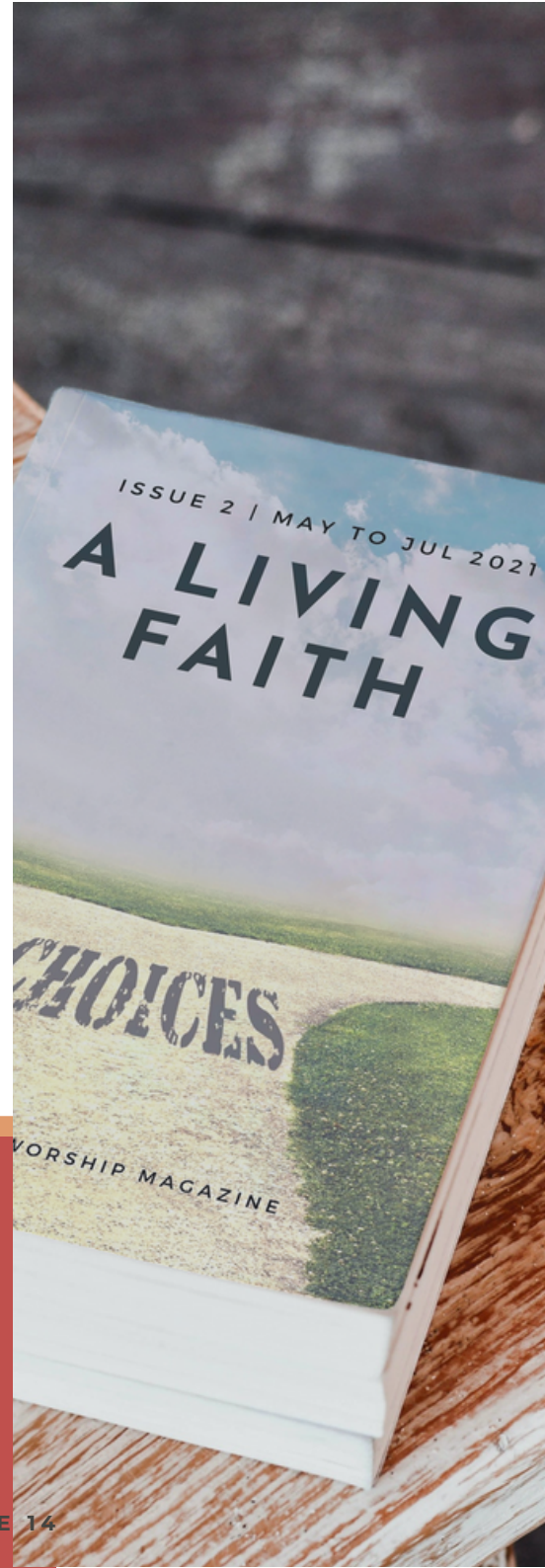


“A Living Faith” Magazine (Issue 2)

We hope that you have enjoyed reading, and benefitted from the first issue of our Youth Worship Magazine - “A Living Faith”!

We are thrilled to share with you the second issue of the Magazine that focuses on the theme of “Choices”. This will be given out at YWS on 21 August 2021.

If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, kindly contact us (Janelle/Yuanli) and we would be glad to send it to you.



ANNOUNCEMENT



21 AUG 2021

Message: "Then God opened her eyes"

Text: Genesis 21:1-21

God's Divine Plan was revealed to Abraham. Isaac was that Promised seed. Abraham was to heed Sarah's advice to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Graciously, God also assured Abraham that He would personally undertake to care for them both.

With deep grief, Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away with some provisions of bread and water. After some time in the wilderness, Hagar found herself in despair and desperation when they ran out of water. The present woes and the imminent possibility of her son's death gripped her as she wept!

God had promised to protect and provide for Hagar and Ishmael. How would He render His Divine Help? How would He fulfil His promise to make Ishmael a great nation? Let us discover more about our Promise-Keeping God next week!



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