

**God's Blessing, My Way**  
**Genesis 16:1-16, Pew Bible p. 11**  
**March 1, 2026**

**I. Warning Against Our Way (V. 1-6)**

A. When we refuse to receive God's blessings His way, we are forced to find them our own way.

1. When we try to control God's blessings, we are saying His timing is wrong.
2. When we try to control God's blessings, we are saying His character is evil.

B. When we try to get God's blessings our way, the result always disgusts us.

1. The benefit is limited.
2. The fallout is horrifying.

**II. Hope for Those Stuck in Their Way (V. 7-16)**

A. Even when we are suffering for our poor choices, that does not mean God is done with us.

1. God cares for people in pain, even those who deserve it.
2. God always keeps His promises, even after we have tried to mess them up.

B. Even when we have messed up God's plan, that does not mean God does not still have a plan.

1. As long as we still have breath, we can be restored if we believe Him.
2. As long as we still have breath, we can be restored if we obey Him.

**Special Credit to:**

Research Assistant: Andrew Miller, David Sherwood

Editor: Christina Irvine

Slide Creator: Mary Sanford

## Discussion Questions

1. Read Genesis 16:1-16.
2. Who did Sarai blame for not being able to have children yet, and what did she plan to do about it, according to verse 2?
  - a. Have you ever been tempted to blame God for not working fast enough?
  - b. What have people done today in order to get God's blessing their way?
3. How did Sarai's plan work out for her, according to verse 5?
  - a. Have you ever tried to control God's plan and been horrified at the result? How?
4. Why on earth does God care to pursue Hagar in the wilderness, since she is neither of the promise nor a blessing to Sarai?
  - a. What does that tell us about God's love for us even when we stray?
  - b. Have you experienced God reaching out to you even when you were farthest from him.
5. What did God want Hagar to do in order to be blessed by God?
  - a. What does that tell us about what we need to do after making big mistakes that we can't take back?
  - b. What does that tell us about God's plan for people who are suffering for their own choices?
6. Pray for our church members to be sure of the promises of God. Come to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Worship Center lobby.