

## Genesis 15:1-6 New Living Translation

### The Lord's Covenant Promise to Abram

**1** Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

**2** But Abram replied, "O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. **3** You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

**4** Then the Lord said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." **5** Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

**6** And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.

## Genesis 16:1-6

### The Birth of Ishmael

**1** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. **2** So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. **3** So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

**4** So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. **5** Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong—you or me!"

**6** Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

## Questions

1. What visual image did God give to Abram about his future in verse 5?
2. How did Abram respond to God's promise in verse 6?
3. Why is it hard to put your trust in something you can't see?
4. Do you think Abram should have gone along with Sarai's plan to have children?
5. Can you describe a time in your life when it was hard to trust God for a situation or need?