

## Mission Menu

### COVID Response Fund

Thank you to all of the generous donors who have contributed to the COVID-19 Response Fund. To date, we have raised \$30,000! Through your generosity we were able to feed more than 150 families by partnering with Pontiac's Centro La Familia! Thank you!

Please consider a donation to the COVID-19 Response Fund today. Giving is easy; text COVID \$\_\_ (the amount you wish) to 73256, give online, or mail in a check with Response on the memo line to: Kirk in the Hills Attn: Finance Office 1340 W. Long Lake Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

### Lighthouse Collection Drive:

Thanks to your donations we are well on our way to provide essential items for more than 80 guests being sheltered by Lighthouse! You can continue bringing donations through the summer from the list below and drop off at the Kirk just inside the first Welcome Center door in the Lighthouse Bin between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. weekdays.

Every donation goes a long way in supporting our Lighthouse friends during these extremely difficult times.

Our goal is to collect 80 of each item so please feel free to purchase any number of the same item:

Hand and Body lotion

Nail Clippers

Comb/brush

Hand Sanitizer

Indoor All Purpose Cleaning supplies - spray

\$4 in quarters for wash and dry

Laundry Detergent and Softener Sheets

Healthy Snacks

Drinks - can or small bottles

Bottles of Juice

Cereal

Personal games

There are a lot of different ways that you can volunteer and connect with the community. Please visit the website: <https://mycovidresponse.org> to see how you can help make a difference during this Pandemic.



## Small Groups – Sermon Notes Week of June 21, 2020

### Genesis 21:8-21

<sup>8</sup>The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

<sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup>So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup>The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup>But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup>As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

<sup>14</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. <sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup>Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup>And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup>Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup>God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup>He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

### Fill in the Blanks

A serious reading of scripture puts us in \_\_\_\_\_ spots.

While we believe that \_\_\_\_\_ should be a catalyst for comfort, it sometimes becomes a catalyst for \_\_\_\_\_.

Following Jesus can sometimes lead to a crisis of \_\_\_\_\_.

When our world falls \_\_\_\_\_, God's world is \_\_\_\_\_ together.

Abraham's world, after becoming a father to two \_\_\_\_\_, was turned \_\_\_\_\_ down.

There is always a larger \_\_\_\_\_ at work that we cannot fully see; a larger \_\_\_\_\_ that we cannot fully \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm \_\_\_\_ is followed by the familiar words of Psalm \_\_\_\_\_.

Living out scripture leads us to places of \_\_\_\_\_ never imagined!

Do not let your \_\_\_\_\_ be troubled; believe in \_\_\_\_\_, believe also in me.

### Showing Up

1. Share a moment when your world was turned upside down.
2. Pastor Ed talks about how there are certain places in the Bible that make us uncomfortable. What passage of scripture troubles you the most?
3. What do you think is the most enjoyable part of being a parent (real or imaginary)?

### Digging In

1. What is it about this passage that makes you uncomfortable? What about this passage gives you hope? What questions do you have when you read this passage?
2. There are quite a few characters in this passage: Sarah, Abraham, Hagar, Isaac, Ishmael, and God. What is the crisis each one is experiencing? Who do you resonate with the most and why? Can you find parallel characters in our society today? Whose crisis do we respond to the most as a society?
3. Pastor Ed talks about how sometimes our faithfulness leads us to crisis of faith—just like Hagar (and even Abraham). Do you think of being faithful as inviting a crisis of faith? How so?
4. Read Genesis 16—the first Hagar and Ishmael story. Compare the two stories. In Genesis 16, Hagar is the first woman to name a well (only important men in the OT name them!) and the first person in the Bible to name God. She names God “El Roi” which translates into “God who sees

me.” Ismael means “God heard.” Through the crises you have experienced, what kind of God have you come to know? If you could give God a name, what would it be? And what would be the name God gives you?

### Going Out

1. The narrator claims that Abraham is "angry on account of his child," but doesn't make it clear exactly which child he means. Neither is the source of that anger very clear either: Is he mad at the child or at Sarah or at himself for the whole mess? There are many instances in the Bible that asks us to “lean into the ambiguity.” And in that ambiguity, we often find God and are found by God. While we desire things to be black and white, we find ourselves in the gray zones of life. Into what gray and ambiguous zone is the Spirit inviting you? How will you lean into the ambiguity week?
2. Name the people in our society who have been cast into wilderness by those in power to maintain their own status quo. Share ideas of what you can do about our siblings in wilderness this week.
3. Pray this prayer by Henri Nouwen together and throughout the week:

Dear God,

I so much want to be in control.

I want to be the master of my own destiny.

Still I know that you are saying:

“Let me take you by the hand and lead you.

Accept my love

and trust that where I will bring you,

the deepest desires of your heart will be fulfilled.”

Lord, open my hands to receive your gift of love.

Amen