

warm up

1. When you were a kid, what do you especially remember doing that got you into trouble?
2. Who is your most picked on target when you want to pass the blame on to someone other than yourself?

digging deeper

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you? Anything you hoped we could briefly talk about as a group?
2. Over and over again, Genesis has shown us examples of how things unravel when people become tired of following God's plan and start doing their own thing. How does James 4:13-17 highlight the danger of letting our own plan for our life supersede God's? How would you evaluate yourself in light of this scripture?
3. What do the following verses tell us about how to place God at the forefront of any plans we have? What does this look like practically?
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Proverbs 16:3
 - Matthew 6:31-33
4. Patience can be difficult in that we often don't want to invest the time or energy it takes to become patient. Part of learning this key spiritual skill is enduring frustrations and hardships. What encouragement can be taken from the following verses in terms of being patient and enduring hardships?
 - Romans 5:3-5
 - James 1:2-4, 12How have you seen this progression played out in your life or in the life of someone you know?
5. In Genesis 16 we read that Abram and Sarai had been waiting 10 years for God to fulfill His promise to them. Where have you been waiting "10 years" for God to fulfill a promise? What do you think is God's purpose for us in long waiting periods? Have you tried to take matters into your own hands?
6. Hagar was instructed by God to stop running and return to her mistress, Sarai. From what are you feeling tempted to run?

taking it home

1. If God is "the God who sees", how do you live your life knowing that God is aware of everything about you? (See Psalm 139:1-12 – share what inspires you most in this passage)
2. What do we learn about the character of God in this story?