

How To Get Back on Track
Genesis 16:1-13
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July 27, 2025

Genesis 16:1-13,

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. 3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."

6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. 7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

What others are saying about getting back on track

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

-Thomas A. Edison

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

-James Allen

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Mistakes are the portals of discovery."

-James Joyce

"My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure."

-Abraham Lincoln

"Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing."

-Denis Waitley

"I've failed over and over again, and that is why I succeed."

–Michael Jordan

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

–Winston S. Churchill

How to Get Back on Track When Life Knocks You Down

1. Grace is available for terrible decisions.

Sarai	All were responsible
Hagar	and accountable for
Abram	this poor decision.

Wisdom on Decision Making

1. Remind yourself that your choices reflect your values.
2. Never make a decision under duress.
3. Always get Godly counsel from trusted friends.
4. Surround your decision in prayer.
5. Go to the Word of God for direction.
6. Ask guidance from the Holy Spirit – your life counselor.
7. Remind yourself of the ripple effect of your choices.

2. You never win when you play the blame game.

Genesis 16:4–6a,

He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." 6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best."

Sarai	blamed Abram
Abram	blamed Hagar
Hagar	blamed Sarai

3. Running will get you lost.

Genesis 16:6b,

Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

Hagar – To fly away

1. What are you running from?
2. What are you running to?

4. God will always find you and ask you the right questions.

Genesis 16:7–8,

The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

1. Where have you come from?
2. Where are you going?

5. In order to go forward, you need to go back.

Genesis 16:9-12,

Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

11 The angel of the Lord also said to her:

"You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

6. See the one who sees you.

Genesis 16:13,

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

In case you missed it...

Answers:

1. Grace
2. Blame
3. Lost
4. Find
5. Back
6. Sees