



IMPERFECT FAITH
IN A FAITHFUL GOD

The Journey of Sarah



**FAITH BEGINS
WITH TRUST**

GENESIS 12:1-5

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

GENESIS 12:2-3 NIV

"Look toward heaven and count the stars... so shall your offspring be."

GENESIS 15:5

"I will bless her (Sarah), and moreover,
I will give you a son by her... she shall become nations."

GENESIS 17:16



***"Faith is taking the first step even when
you don't see the whole staircase."***

Martin Luther King Jr

***Faith says: "I will go, I will rise up, I will take the first step
even when I don't fully understand."***



- Where is God asking you to trust Him before you understand?
- What is currently shaping your decisions more? Your need for certainty and control, or your trust in God's character and promises?
- What is a practical way to grow your relationship with God?





**FAITH IS TESTED
IN THE DELAY**

GENESIS 16:1-4

Faith Over Time: How long was the wait?

11 years of waiting

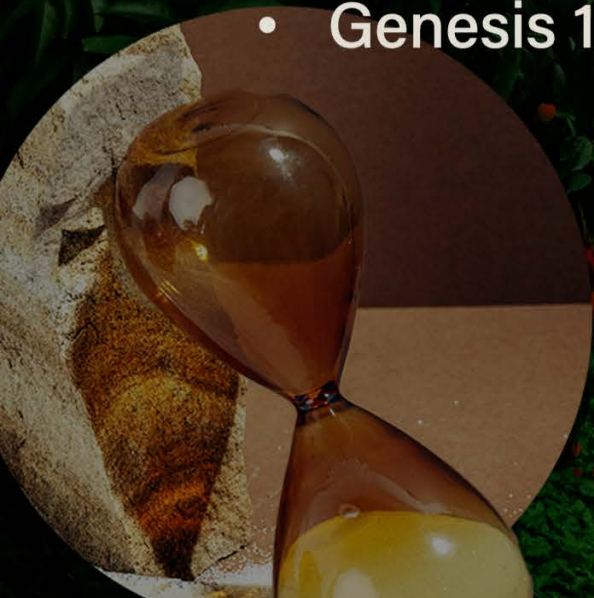
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**Faith Begins
with Trust**

- Genesis 12

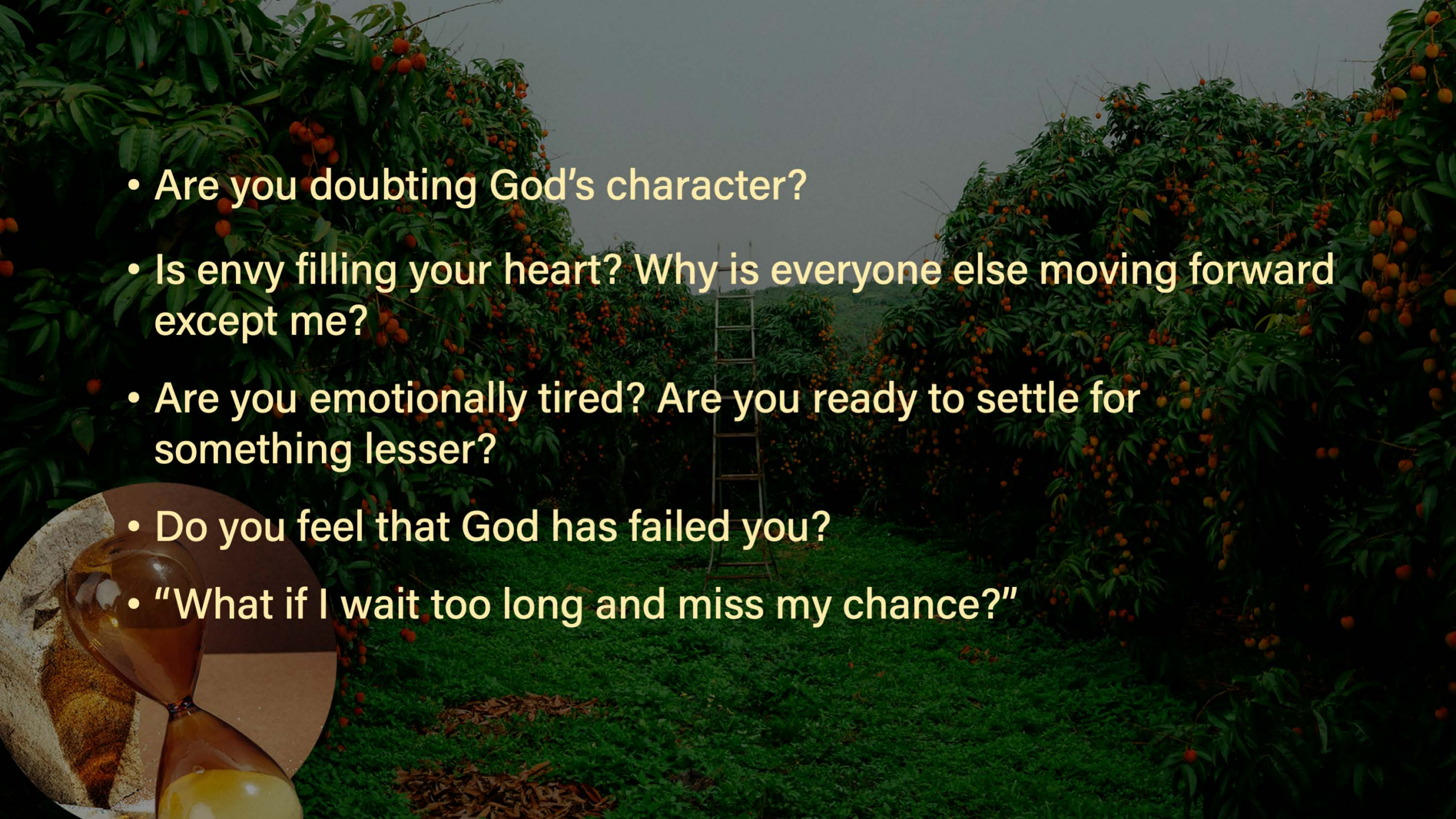
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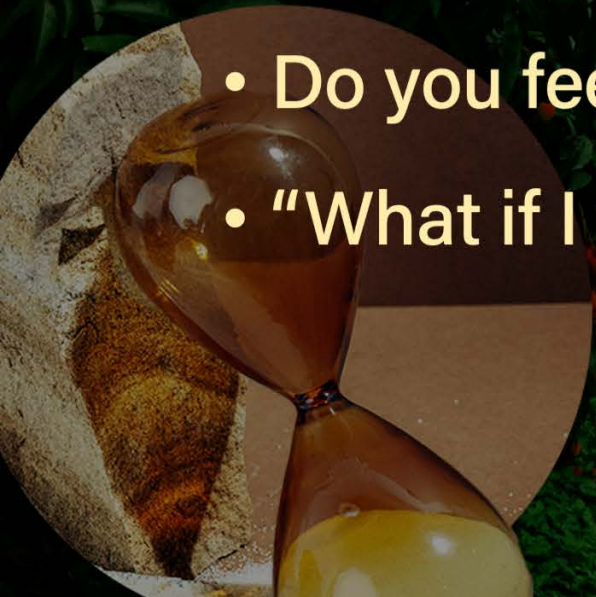
**Faith was tested
in the Delay**



What is the delay revealing about what is in your heart?



- 
- An orchard with rows of orange trees. A wooden ladder is leaning against a tree in the center background. The ground is covered in green grass and some fallen leaves. The sky is overcast and grey.
- Are you doubting God's character?
 - Is envy filling your heart? Why is everyone else moving forward except me?
 - Are you emotionally tired? Are you ready to settle for something lesser?
 - Do you feel that God has failed you?
 - "What if I wait too long and miss my chance?"



The Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness
these forty years, to humble and test you in order
to know what was in your heart.

DEUTERONOMY 8:2 NIV

ROMANS 5:3-4

God uses delays to shape and grow us in our character



Faith is not just believing **what** God said...
it's also trusting **when** He will do it

- What promise or prayer feels delayed in your life?
- Are you attempting to force your own solution?
- Will you surrender the timeline back to God?



An orchard of orange trees with a ladder in the center and a circular inset of an hourglass in the bottom left corner.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

PROVERBS 13:12 NIV

Hope **(in Christ)** deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled **(by Christ)** is a tree of life.

PROVERBS 13:12 NIV



Faith Over Time: How long was the wait?

11 years of waiting

14 years of silence

65

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**Faith Begins
with Trust**

- Genesis 12

**Faith was tested
in the Delay**

- Genesis 16
- Sarah took control
- Birth of Ishmael
- Breed complications





**FAITH RESTS IN
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**

GENESIS 18:9-15

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age,
was **enabled to bear children** because she considered
Him(God) faithful who had made the promise.

HEBREWS 11:11 NIV

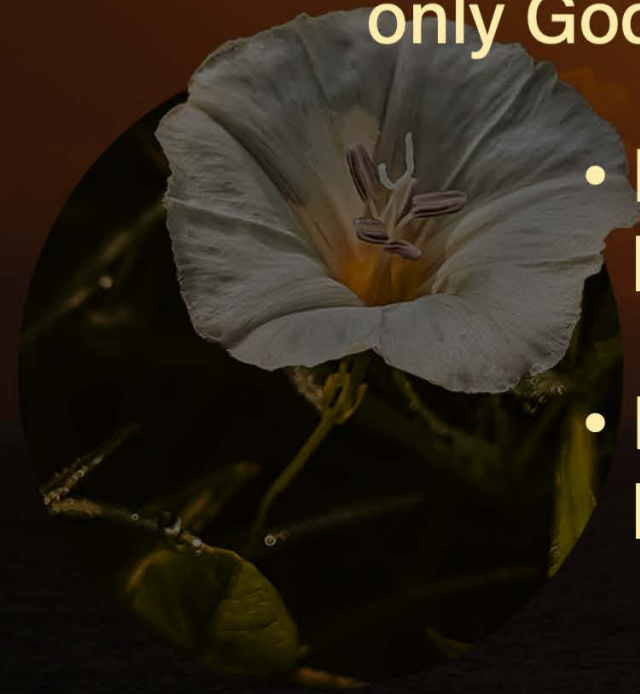


“Can this happen?”  **“God is Faithful”**

- *Posture of rest in who God is*
- *Faith grows*



- Where is God inviting you to trust Him again?
- What part of God's calling or promise feels "too late" or "too impossible" to believe?
- Are you exhausting yourself trying to produce what only God can provide?
- Have you been hiding your questions instead of bringing honest doubts to Him?
- If you truly believe that nothing is too hard for God, how would you pray?



Faith Over Time: How long was the wait?

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Faith Begins with Trust

- Genesis 12

14 years of silence

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Faith was tested in the Delay

- Genesis 16
- Sarah took control
- Birth of Ishmael
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90

Faith rested in God's Faithfulness

- Genesis 21
- Birth of Isaac
- Promise fulfilled
- Joy restored

25 Years to fulfilment.

God was not absent. He was forming faith

