



Series Title: OVERCOMING REJECTION

Key Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16, 21:8-21

Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/overcoming-series

Date + Speaker: Pastor Mark Scarr - May 12th, 2024

Starter:

Have you ever felt rejected? You know that feeling that you don't belong, are not accepted, or intentionally left out? How do you deal with it? What is the right way to handle it? Let's explore biblical truths on how to overcome rejection.

Discussion:

1. In Genesis 16:1-6, Sarai and Abram make decisions that lead to Hagar feeling rejected. What can we learn from their actions about the consequences of taking matters into our own hands instead of trusting God's timing?
2. How does recognizing the destructive goals of "the thief" in John 10:10 help us handle feelings of rejection, and in what ways does Jesus' promise of an abundant life provide hope and healing in contrast to those feelings?
3. Isaiah 53:3 describes Jesus as being "despised and rejected by mankind." How does knowing that Jesus himself experienced rejection help us to deal with our own feelings of rejection?
4. Genesis 16:7-16 shows Hagar's encounter with the angel of the Lord during her flight. What does this encounter teach us about God's presence and promises in moments of rejection?
5. In Matthew 27:46, Jesus expresses a moment of profound distress and abandonment. How can this expression of vulnerability provide comfort or solidarity to those who feel rejected or forsaken?
6. Discuss the importance of Hebrews 13:5 in overcoming rejection. How does the assurance that God will never leave or forsake us change our perspective on personal rejections?

7. Genesis 21:8-21 recounts the repeated rejection of Hagar and Ishmael. What lessons can we learn about resilience and faith in God's provision when facing recurring rejection in our lives?

Reflection:

Have you recently experienced rejection? Remember, hurt people often hurt others. Consider seeing the situation through this lens and pray for the individual who hurt you. Did you know that David also faced significant rejection? Explore 1 & 2 Samuel to discover how he coped with and overcame these challenges.