

**HOW ARE BELIEVERS TO DEAL WITH OR AVOID FAMILY PROBLEMS?
THE DANGER OF RELYING ON THE FLESH
Genesis 16:1-6**

- I. WE MUST RELY ON THE LORD AND HIS WISDOM (from His Word) AND NOT OUR OWN: Abram wrongly listens to his wife's sinful advice and receives and takes Hagar, the Egyptian maid, as his wife (1-3a)**
- A. **Two observable realities introduced:** Sarai is barren and has an Egyptian maid (1)
 - B. **Sarai's proposes a solution** is strictly based on those two realities: Children through her Egyptian maid (2a)
- II. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THERE ARE HUGH CONSEQUENCES FOR RELYING ON OUR OWN WISDOM: Abram wrongly listens to his wife's sinful advice and inevitable consequences of strife and further sin ensue (2b-16)**
- A. **ABRAM'S (and Sarai's) BIG MISTAKE:** Abram wrongly listens to his wife's sinful advice and receives and takes Hagar as his wife (2b-3)
 - B. **THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR RELYING ON FLESHLY WISDOM PILE UP:** A child is conceived and family strife and more sin ensues (4-16)
 - 1. **A child is conceived** and family strife ensues, as Sarai is despised (4)
 - 2. **Sarai piously blames Abram** for wronging her (5)
 - 3. **Abram further sins** by subjugating his responsibility to his wife (6a)
 - 4. **Sarai is thus emboldened to further sin** and treats her maid harshly (6b)

Next week: Our sin affects others and consequences often remain, yet the Lord is gracious (7-16)