

## Questions

1. Sarai's action of giving her servant as a surrogate to Abram was fine in the eyes of the world. What's a current practice that the culture approves of that is not God's design? Do you recall yielding to cultural pragmatism when you should have remained patient, waiting on the Lord?
2. What are some lessons you've learned about waiting on the Lord? How would you counsel a fellow believer who is growing impatient waiting for answered prayer?
3. Read Genesis 16:1-3. In what way(s) did Sarai and Abram's actions replicate those of Adam and Eve. If you're married, what's one takeaway from these accounts that might help you to avoid foolish pragmatism?
4. Like Adam and Eve, Abram and Sarai seemed unwilling to repent of their own sinful choices. Instead, Sarai became angry at Hagar and Abram stepped back even further from leading. What can you do in the aftermath of your own foolish choices to help prevent making a situation worse?
5. Read Genesis 16:11-12. What did God promise as Ishmael's legacy? There has been lasting ethnic strife between Abraham's descendants through Ishmael and those through Isaac. But there has also been hostility from the line of Ishmael towards those who are Abraham's children by faith. Based on what we've seen in Genesis 16, can a follower of Jesus show mercy toward hostile people? If so, how?
6. How can a brother or sister in Christ be praying for you to grow in godly endurance during a time of waiting?



## The God Who Sees

### Genesis 16

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In Genesis 16, God's mercy prevails even when His people mistreat one who is outside of the believing community.

While His people are foolish, God is compassionate. He pursues the one who is wandering away and leads her to become a worshipper.

The Dilemma: God's decade-old promise of offspring seemed no closer to fulfillment (Genesis 16:1)

#### 1. Foolish Pragmatism Replaces Patient Waiting (16:1-3)

*Need prayer?  
Someone will be up front by the piano  
to pray with you after the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> services.*

2. Consequences Lead to Anger and Cruelty (16:4-6)
3. God's Mercy Turns a Wanderer Into a Worshipper (16:7-16)