



## Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

### Title of Sermon: An Ill-Advised Plan

Passage: Genesis 16:1-16 NIV

#### Intro -

1. What is the most ill-advised plan you have ever come up with? Why did you go through with it? How did it turn out?
2. When you hear someone else describe their ill-advised plan, how do you tell them it's kind of silly? Do you? Should you? Why or why not?

#### Sermon Points -

1. Abram and His Scheming Wife
  - a. Childlessness was a great travesty in the ancient world. Sarai and Abram were promised children, but they were having to wait for it to happen. Have you ever been in a situation when you have been waiting for God to act on your behalf, but you just kept waiting? Describe that situation.
    - i. How did you cope in the waiting time?
    - ii. Did God finally come through?
    - iii. Was it in the way you expected him to?
    - iv. Was the outcome worse or better than you expected?
  - b. Sarai's plan is a culturally expected one. Her friends and neighbours would have thought she was just using common sense to fulfill God's promise. In what places does the accepted wisdom of our culture contradict the wisdom of God today? Why do we so often opt to follow our wisdom instead of God's wisdom? What would help us follow God's wisdom more?
  - c. How should Abram have helped his wife to trust God's wisdom instead of her own? How should we approach our friends or spouses when they aren't trusting the Lord in the decisions they are making?
2. Hagar and Her Seeing God
  - a. Why do you think Hagar is so willing to go back to submit to Sarai after being so mistreated?
  - b. How does God's promise to her for her descendants motivate her to obey the Lord? What motivates us to submit to the difficulties of following Jesus?



- c. Can you describe a time in your life when God has comforted you when you felt troubled or oppressed?
  - i. How did you receive comfort from God?
  - ii. What conclusions have you come to about God's character from such situations?

### **Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

### **Benediction** - Romans 15:13 NIV

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*