



Series: Genesis
Passage: Genesis 16
Title: When Faith Falters
Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 7/31/2022

Discussion Starter – Shortly following the great victory and renewed promise of God in chapters 14 and 15, Abram, (the father of faith), shows a lack of faith in his decisions in this chapter. What does this teach us about our own exercise of faith and God’s grace?

- Describe how Abram and Sarai’s circumstances contradicted the promises of God. Do circumstances in your life ever seem to contradict the word and promises of God?
- How do you maintain your faith during sharp and brief opposition as compared to day to day ongoing circumstances?
- Read verse 4. Who despises whom? What does this teach us about the consequences of past sin?
- Read John 8:34 and Romans 6:16. How does sin entangle us?

This slippery slope of circumstances and decisions was exacerbated by 3 marital dysfunctions.

1. Describe how excitement, anxiety, and fear can influence our decisions. How are these emotions amplified when making a decision with your spouse? How can we make godly decisions when emotions are high?
 2. What is the motivation when we blame our spouse (or others) when faced with negative consequences or circumstances? What appropriate action can we take in these times?
 3. How did Abram fail in his responsibility? How were his priorities misplaced?
- What personal temptations influenced Abram to concede to Sarai’s request?
 - Reference Romans 15:4 and 2 Corinthians 1:4. What lessons can we apply to our lives from this episode in Abram’s and Sarai’s life?
 - Who is The Angel of The LORD in verse 7? What is the significance of His appearance here to Hagar?
 - Read verse 8. What is god really asking in this verse?
 - Why is He asking these questions? Who is supposed to benefit from the question?
 - Why is it important to meditate on God’s word?
 - Describe a time you read a portion of scripture with which you are familiar and discovered an entirely new application and depth of meaning.
 - What name did Hagar give to the Angel of The LORD? Why is it significant?
 - Describe the similarities between Hagar and the woman at the well in John 4?
 - What is the significance of Ishmael’s name, God hears? At what point in Hagar’s life does she receive this message from God?