

ABRAHAM: JOURNEY OF FAITH

Discussion Guide
Week 5 – February 17
GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL | Genesis 16

Introduction

One of my favorite stories is of a family who attended Brookside in the earliest years of our church. They now live in Minneapolis and are good friends. They were on a trip and the youngest of their three sons was given the opportunity to drive. They had just finished lunch. Everyone decided to take a nap. So no one saw the direction they were headed. No one knew until a good hundred miles later when they woke up, that he had taken an exit the wrong direction.

In this week's study we see Abraham do this. Instead of staying on track toward his **True North**, he takes a very bad exit going south. South spiritually, that is!

Read Genesis chapter 16 before beginning this week's study.

Questions for Study

1. Have you ever had one of those times on a road trip where you mistakenly thought you were headed in the right direction? If you're married and you're on a trip and realizing you're lost, who's more likely to stop and ask for directions? Either one of you think you know better than your GPS?
2. If you've ever gone south spiritually, what would you say was your worst time doing this? Why do you think you did this? What were the consequences?
3. After reading Genesis 16 what were some of your thoughts or feelings about Sarah and Abraham?
4. What do you think you'd say to the person who reads a chapter like this and tells you that this is why they don't want anything to do with the Bible?
5. Why do you think Sarah did what she did? (Give yourself time to think of all the possible reasons for her to do this even when God promised Abraham a son.)
6. Following question 5, what do we learn not to do from Sarah? Another way to answer this question is to put it in the positive. What do we learn to do from Sarah not doing it?
7. Why do you think Abraham went along with her plan? (Again, give yourself time to think of all the possible reasons he'd do this when God had promised him a son. Which by the way, is what God did in chapter 15.)
8. Following question 7, what do we learn not to do from Abraham? Another way to answer this question is to put it in the positive. What do we learn to do from Abraham not doing it?
9. What does this chapter say about the importance of speaking truth into each other's lives?
10. What do we learn about God from this chapter?

