

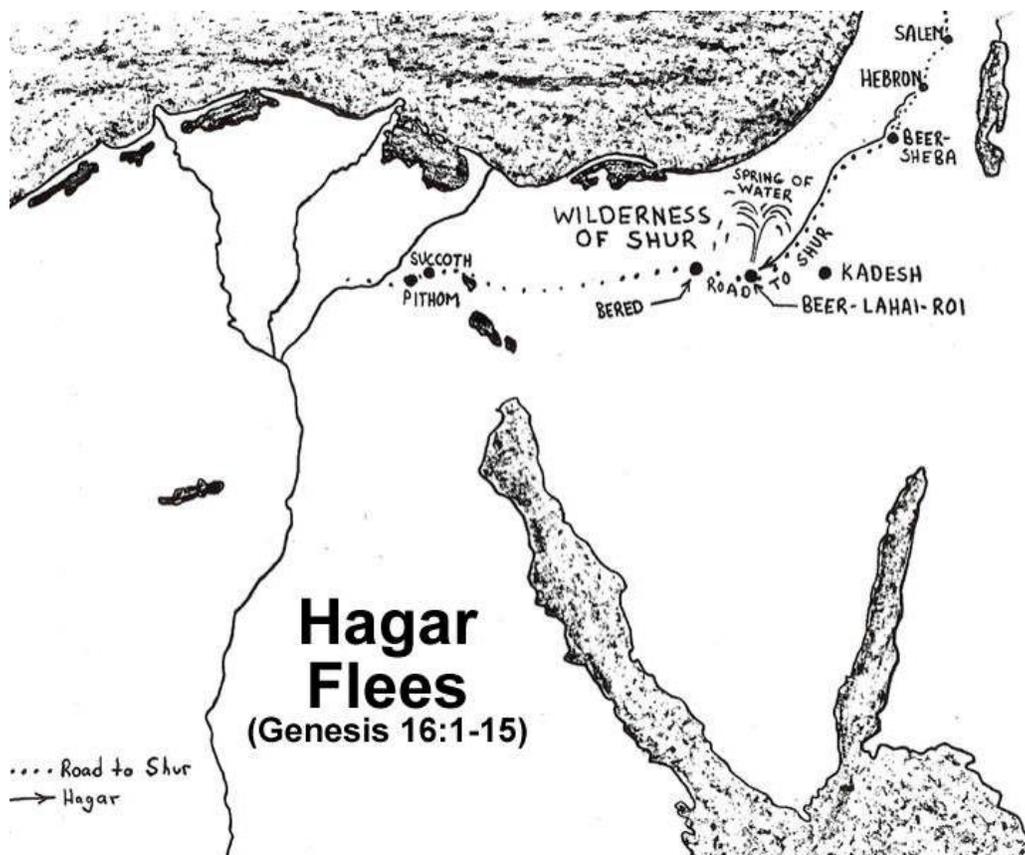
- As we begin chapter 16, don't forget what just happened...
  - At the beginning of chapter 15, what was Abram's concern?
  - How did God answer that concern?

## Read Genesis 16:1-4

- Although the actions we read here may seem odd to us, they would not have seemed that strange in Abram's day. Explain what was going on here.
- Why might Sarai choose this course of action here?  
*(Hint: remember what God said to Abram in 15:4)*
- In these verses, it is mentioned twice that Hagar was an Egyptian. What is the significance?
- Note: "The custom of the day not only allowed a childless wife to give her maid to her husband but may actually have demanded it. The spade of the archeologist has uncovered marriage contracts from ancient Nuzi, in what is now Iraq, in which a bride promised to give her husband a maid if she herself was unable to have children."  
(People's Bible: Genesis, p.145)
- The end of verse 2 says: "And Abram agreed to what Sarai said." What does this phrase remind you of? *(Hint: think about an earlier event in the book of Genesis.)*
- Note: Abram and Sarai's failure to completely trust God's promises led to family strife. What caused Hagar's change of attitude?
- How would you answer someone who used Abram as an example to promote polygamy?

Read Genesis 16:5-6

- How do we see another replay from Genesis 3?
- Explain what Abram is saying in verse 6.
- Note the following translations for the second half of verse 6. Explain what Sarai is doing?
  - HCSB – “Then **Sarai mistreated her** so much that she ran away from her.”
  - NIV84 – “Then **Sarai mistreated Hagar**; so she fled from her.”
  - NASB – “So **Sarai treated her harshly**, and she fled from her presence.”
  - KJV – “And when **Sarai dealt hardly with her**, she fled from her face.”
- Whatever Sarai did, it led to Hagar running away. The next verse will tell us that she was on the way to Shur. Using the map below, explain what Hagar was doing.



### Read Genesis 16:7-10

- Agree/Disagree: An angel appeared and brought a message from God.
- Verse 7 says, “The Angel of the LORD found her...” How is this verse a great comfort for us?
- Give three reasons why Hagar would know that “the angel” is truly some extraordinary!
- What is the Angel of the LORD commanding Hagar to do in verse 9?
  - HCSB – <sup>9</sup>Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, “You must go back to your mistress and **submit to her mistreatment.**”
  - NIV84 – <sup>9</sup>Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and **submit to her.**”
  - NASB – <sup>9</sup>Then the angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and **submit yourself to her authority.**”
  - KJV – <sup>9</sup>And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and **submit thyself under her hands.**
- What does the Angel of the Lord do to help Hagar follow this command?

### Read Genesis 16:11-12

- Explain how the name (Ishmael) that Hagar was to give to her son, was a form of comfort for her.
- What does this prophecy tell you about Ishmael?
- How does this prophecy still come true in our world today?
- Apply the words of 2 Peter 2:18 to this account: <sup>18</sup>*Household slaves, submit with all fear to your masters, not only to the good and gentle but also to the cruel.*

Read Genesis 16:13-16

- How did Hagar show her gratitude for this new revelation of God's mercy?
- How does verse 13 add to our understanding of the one who was speaking with Hagar?
- Note: The HCSB here translates the name for us. The KJV, NIV and NASB all just turn the Hebrew name into English letters.
  - HCSB – “A Well of the Living One Who Sees Me”
  - KJV, NIV, NASB – “Beer-lahai-roi”
- What interesting fact is found in the fact that Abram was the one who gave the boy the name Ishmael?
- Verse 16 tells us that Abram is 86 years old at the birth of Ishmael. The very next verse will tell us that Abram was 99 when God comes with the promise to fulfill his prior promises through Sarai. This fulfillment took place and Isaac was born when Abram was 100. Ishmael would have been 14 years old when Isaac was born. Therefore, it was a long time that they lived under the assumption that this was how God “solved” the problem. Can you imagine the family dynamic during those years?