

## **BEWARE OF SHORTCUTS**

### **Genesis 16**

#### **Mistakes to avoid in life:**

##### **1. Thinking God needs my help**

*Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." (1-2a)*

##### **2. Putting people before God**

*And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. (2b-3)*

##### **3. Passing the blame instead of taking responsibility**

*And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" (4-5)*

##### **4. Accepting peace at any price**

*But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." (6a)*

##### **5. Running from problems**

*Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. (6b)*

##### **6. Assuming God is indifferent**

*So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." (13)*