

A Foolish Attempt to Accomplish God's Plans

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "Genesis" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
06-14-26*

Opening Prayer

- Pray that God would help us recognize when we are jumping ahead of His timing and give us patience to wait on His plans.
- Ask the Lord to teach us to consult Him in both big and small decisions and to choose obedience over quick fixes.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever “jumped the gun” on something important (a race, a decision, a purchase, etc.)? What happened and how did it turn out?

Key Scripture

Genesis 16:1-2 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Abram's wife, Sarai, had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "Since the Lord has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Sermon Summary

Abraham and Sarah grew impatient waiting for God's promise of a son. They tried to accomplish God's plan their own way by having Abraham sleep with Hagar. This “false start” created pain and complications, yet God's ultimate plan was not stopped. The sermon reminds us that jumping the gun on God's timing leads to unnecessary trouble, while waiting on Him in faith prepares us for what only He can do.

Discussion Point 1: Neglecting to Consult God

Scripture: Genesis 16:2 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Sarai said to Abram, "Since the Lord has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Point Summary: Instead of asking God how He wanted to fulfill the promise, Abraham and Sarah moved forward with their own solution. When we neglect to consult God, we easily get ahead of His plan. God desires ongoing conversation with us about every part of our lives because He loves us and has good purposes for us.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you share a time when you made a decision without consulting God first? What was the result?
2. What are some practical ways we can get better at asking God specific questions in our daily decisions?

Discussion Point 2: Resorting to Expediency Over Obedience

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

Point Summary: Abraham and Sarah chose what seemed practical and culturally acceptable at the time rather than obeying God’s design for marriage and family. Expediency often feels faster or easier, but it takes us off God’s path. Obedience means aligning our actions with Scripture even when it’s slower or harder.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some common “expedient” choices people make today that conflict with God’s Word (in relationships, money, work, etc.)?
2. How can we help each other choose obedience when it feels costly or inconvenient?

Discussion Point 3: Creating Needless Pain (Yet God Still Redeems)

Scripture: Genesis 16:13 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

So she named the Lord who spoke to her: “You are El-roi,” for she said, “In this place, have I actually seen the one who sees me?”

Point Summary: Their decision brought tension into their marriage, hardship for Hagar, and pain for everyone involved. Yet God saw Hagar’s distress, heard her cry, and continued working out His plan. Jumping the gun creates unnecessary pain, but God’s mercy is greater than our mistakes—He sees, He hears, and He redeems.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen (or experienced) needless pain result from trying to get ahead of God?
2. How does knowing that “God sees and God hears” give you hope when you’ve made mistakes or are waiting on His timing?

Wrap-Up

Abraham and Sarah's story shows us the foolishness of trying to accomplish God's plans our own way. When we jump the gun, we create pain and complications, but God's purposes are never nullified. He sees us, hears us, and fulfills His promises in His perfect time. The challenge is to wait on the Lord, prepare in faith, and trust that His Plan B is always better than our rushed Plan A.

Challenge

This week, ask God one specific question each day about a decision you're facing. Write it down and listen for His direction. Take time to prepare in faith for what God has promised rather than forcing things in your own strength. If your group is involved in any church initiatives like a Prayer Journey, lean into that as you practice waiting on the Lord.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He sees us and hears us even in our mistakes, and that His plans cannot be stopped.
- Pray for patience to wait on His timing and wisdom to consult Him in all things.
- Ask the Lord to help us choose obedience and to renew our strength as we trust in Him.

Handout

Key Scripture Genesis 16:1-2 (CSB) *Abram's wife, Sarai, had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "Since the Lord has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said.*

Main Takeaway

Jumping the gun on God's plan creates unnecessary pain. Waiting on Him in faith prepares us for what only He can do.

Four Truths When We "Jump the Gun"

1. We neglect to consult God
2. We resort to expediency over obedience
3. We create needless pain
4. We have **not** nullified God's plan — He still redeems!

Discussion Reflection

- What is one area of my life where I'm tempted to get ahead of God's timing right now?
- What would "consulting God" look like in that situation?

My Action Step This Week I will ask God this **specific** question each day:

Memory Verse Isaiah 40:31 (CSB)

But those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary; they will walk and not faint.

Prayer Prompts

- Lord, help me wait on Your perfect timing.
- God, I trust that You see me and You hear me.
- Teach me to consult You in everything.

Notes / Takeaways from Group Discussion:

(Print and bring to Life Group — space for personal notes!)