

2008-09 BSP#4 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) **“He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 15 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)**

1. [M] Abraham listened to Sarai’s suggestion in Genesis 16:2. What were the immediate and remote consequences of this departure from God’s plan?
2. [H] Why do you suppose that God dealt kindly with Hagar, promising a great number of descendants to her through her son Ishmael? (Hint: What’s Hagar’s background? In the Bible, how did God treat people from Hagar’s background?)
3. [L] When Abraham heard God say that the birth of Isaac was only one year away, what might have tempted him to delay the ordeal of circumcision instead of carrying it out “that very day” (Gen 17:23)?

(B) **“Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question(s) for Group Meditation and Prayer. (Suggested time: 10 minutes)**

Abraham promptly obeyed God’s command to be circumcised, even though it would be unpleasant. Are you prompt in obeying God? Share with your group members one incident in which you were tempted to delay your obedience to God. What caused you to delay? Fear? Self-indulgence? Sloth? Anger?