

## Is That Really in the Bible?

### Polygamy

1. Can you think of any modern-day examples of polygamy? What is your gut reaction when you see it or hear about it? Why do you think you have that reaction?
2. Read Genesis 16:1-5. Was Abram a godly man? Did having multiple wives help Abram and Sarai or cause them more problems?
3. Read Genesis 29:28-31, Genesis 30:1. Was Jacob a godly man? What kind of troubles do you see in this family as a result of polygamy?
4. Read 1 Samuel 1:2-6. Was Elkanah a godly man? What kind of troubles existed in his family as a result of polygamy?
5. Read 2 Samuel 3:2-5, 2 Samuel 5:13. How did God feel about David? (Acts 13:22) How did God feel about David taking multiple wives? (Deut 17:17)
6. What does 1 Kings 11:3 say happened to Solomon because of his many wives?
7. Do these stories in the Bible in any way confuse your thoughts about polygamy? Or do they give you better clarity? In what ways?
8. Genesis 2:18-25. Who “invented” marriage? What do you think God meant when he said, “for this reason, a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to (cleaves to) his wife and the two become one”? How long do you think God intended this union to last? In what ways does adding additional people into this “union” complicate and weaken the union?
9. Ephesians 5:22-32. What is marriage supposed to be an illustration of? How does Christ treat His bride?
10. Malachi 2:14,15, Proverbs 5:15-20, Leviticus 18:18 (the word translated “sister” can mean a literal sister or figurative sister). How do you think God feels about polygamy?
11. If he doesn’t approve, why did he allow some of the greatest heroes of the faith to fail in this way?
12. Read Matthew 19:3-9. Does verse 8 help give you any better understanding for why God allows things to occur that He does not approve of? What would happen if God stopped “allowing” us to have free choice? What would happen if God, stopped using our lives for His glory simply because we had a past that included “concubines” and ex-spouses?
13. What lessons do you learn from the Bible characters about God’s grace? About earthly consequences? About Jesus Christ and His love for His bride?