



Lesson 13

Psalm 145:18a

The Lord is ready to help all those who call out to Him.

Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1–7

¹The Lord was gracious to Sarah, just as He had said He would be. The Lord did for Sarah what He had promised to do. ²Sarah became pregnant. She had a son by Abraham when he was old. The child was born at the exact time God had promised. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah had by him. ⁴When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him. He did it exactly as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶Sarah said, “God has given laughter to me. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” ⁷She also said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would breast-feed children? But I’ve had a son by him when he is old.”

Questions

- 1 How did the Lord treat Sarah despite her faults? The Lord was _____ to Sarah. (Gen. 21:1)
- 2 Did the Lord do what He promised He would for Sarah? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 21:1)
- 3 Was Abraham and Sarah’s son born *around* the time God had promised? (Yes/No) _____. The child was born at the _____ time God had promised. (Gen. 21:2)
- 4 What name did Abraham give to the son Sarah had by him? Abraham gave the name _____ to the son Sarah had by him. (Gen. 21:3)
- 5 What did Abraham do to his son Isaac when Isaac was eight days old? Abraham _____ Isaac. (Gen. 21:4)



In the Old Testament, circumcision was a symbol of God’s covenant with Abraham and his descendants. God commanded Abraham in Genesis 17:10, “Here is my covenant that you and your family after you must keep. You and every male among you must be circumcised.”

- 6 What did God give to Sarah in her old age? God gave Sarah _____. (Gen. 21:6)

Abraham Sends Hagar and Ishmael Away

Genesis 21:8–21

⁸Isaac grew. The time came for his mother to stop breast-feeding him. On that day Abraham prepared a big celebration. ⁹But Sarah saw Ishmael making fun of Isaac. Ishmael was the son Hagar had by Abraham. Hagar was Sarah's Egyptian slave. ¹⁰Sarah said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman! Get rid of her son! That woman's son will never have a share of the family's property. All of it belongs to my son Isaac."

¹¹What Sarah said upset Abraham very much. After all, Ishmael was his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, "Do not be so upset about the boy and your slave Hagar. Listen to what Sarah tells you, because your family line will continue through Isaac. ¹³I will also make the son of your slave into a nation. I will do it because he is your child."

¹⁴Early the next morning Abraham got some food and a bottle of water. The bottle was made out of animal skin. He gave the food and water to Hagar, placing them on her shoulders. Then he sent her away with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

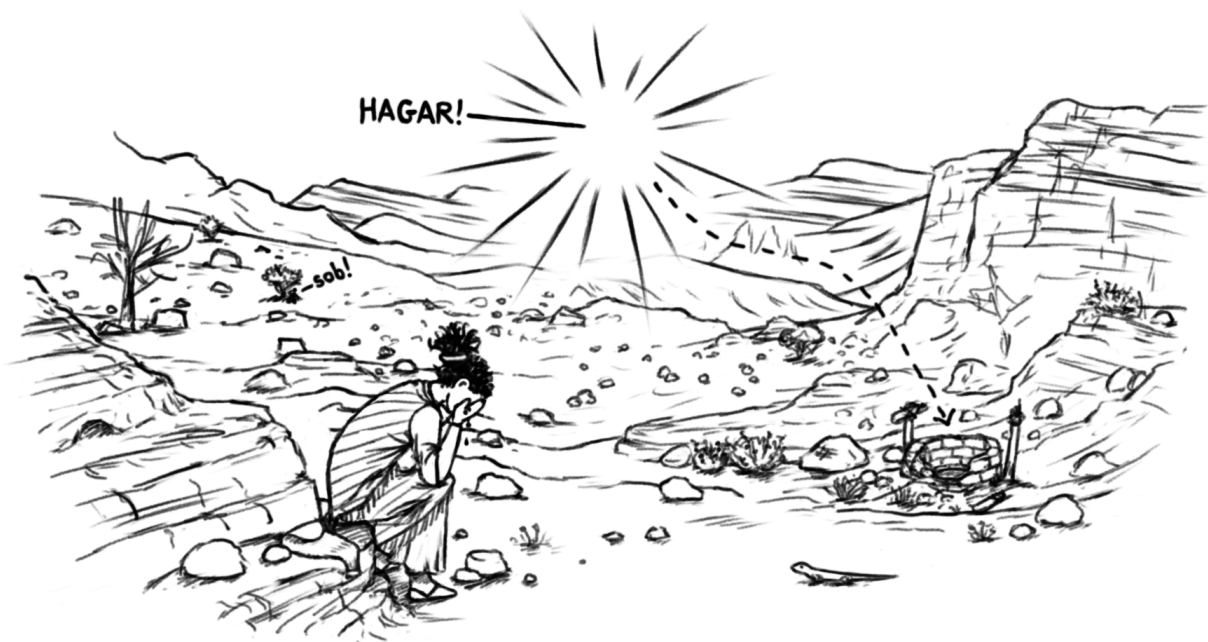
¹⁵When the water in the bottle was gone, she put the boy under a bush. ¹⁶Then she sat down about as far away as a person can shoot an arrow. She thought, "I can't stand to watch the boy die." As she sat there, she began to sob.

¹⁷God heard the boy crying. Then the angel of God called out to Hagar from heaven. He said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid. God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸Lift up the boy and take him by the hand. I will make him into a great nation."

¹⁹Then God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the bottle with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and learned to shoot a bow and arrow.

²¹While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.



Questions

- 7 Why did Abraham prepare a big celebration? Abraham prepared a big celebration because Sarah had _____ breast-feeding Isaac. (Gen. 21:8)



Traditionally, an ancient Hebrew mother weaned her children when they were three years old.

- 8 What did Sarah see Ishmael doing? Sarah saw Ishmael making _____ of Isaac. (Gen. 21:9)
- 9 Who was Ishmael? Ishmael was the son _____ had by Abraham. (Gen. 21:9)



Ishmael was around seventeen years old.

- 10 Why do you think Ishmael was making fun of Isaac? Ishmael was probably **j**_____ (means “upset because someone you love seems interested in another person”).

James 3:16

Are you jealous? Are you concerned only about getting ahead? Then your life will be a mess. You will be doing all kinds of evil things.

- 11 Who do you think that someone was whom Ishmael loved and thought was now more interested in another person? Ishmael loved **A**_____ (his father) and was upset that it now seemed he loved Isaac more.
- 12 Is it normal for an older sibling to become jealous over a new child born into the family, especially if that new child is now getting all the attention? (Yes/No) _____.



However, Ishmael was almost a man.

- 13 What was Sarah’s reaction to Ishmael making fun of Isaac? Sarah got **a**_____ (means “very mad”). (Gen. 21:10)
- 14 What did Sarah do? Sarah told Abraham to get _____ of that _____ woman and her _____. (Gen. 21:10)



Notice how Sarah doesn’t even say their names. There was also no welfare or support for single moms in those days.



Think about Cain and Abel.

- 15 For Sarah to get this angry, what do you think she was really worried about? Sarah was most likely worried that Ishmael's jealousy might lead him to **k** Isaac.
- 16 What does this story reveal to you about sin? (In this case, the sin is Sarah and Abraham's disobedience in having Hagar bear Abraham a son.) There are always **C** _____ (means "negative results") to sin.
- 17 How did Abraham respond to Sarah's demands to get rid of Hagar and Ishmael? Why? Abraham was very much _____, because Ishmael was _____ son. (Gen. 21:11)
- 18 Whom did God comfort? God comforted _____. (Gen. 21:12)



God's words to Abraham in Genesis 21:12 reveal that Abraham was not only upset about his son Ishmael, but his wife Hagar too. Abraham obviously came to love them both.

- 19 What did God tell Abraham to do? God told Abraham to _____ to what Sarah told him to do. (Gen. 21:12)
- 20 Why do you think God told Abraham to listen to his wife when she was partly to blame for all of this? God told Abraham to listen to his wife because God knows the **f** _____ (means "what is going to happen next"), so He knew what was **b** _____ (opposite of "worst") for both Ishmael and Isaac.
- 21 Why did God tell Abraham not to be upset about his son Ishmael and Hagar? God told Abraham not to be upset because Abraham's _____ line would _____ through Isaac, and God would also make Ishmael into a _____. (Gen. 21:12–13)



This meant Hagar and Ishmael would be taken care of by God too.

1 Peter 5:7

Turn all your worries over to Him. He cares about you.

- 22 What did Abraham do the next morning? Abraham got some _____ and a bottle of _____, gave the food and water to _____, placing them on her shoulders, and sent her _____ with the boy. (Gen. 21:14)



Abraham didn't give them a tent, camels to ride on, livestock, weapons to hunt with, tools, etc. Abraham must have known that no matter how much he gave them it wouldn't be enough without God. But with God they had everything!



Keep in mind Ishmael was around seventeen years old.

- 23 Where did Hagar and Ishmael wander? They wandered in the _____ of _____. (Gen. 21:14)
- 24 What did Hagar do when the water in the bottle was gone? Hagar put the boy under a _____. (Gen. 21:15)
- 25 Where did Hagar go? Hagar sat down about as far away as a person can _____ an _____. (Gen. 21:16)
- 26 Why didn't Hagar stay beside her son? Hagar didn't stay beside her son because she couldn't stand to _____ her son _____. (Gen. 21:16)
- 27 What did Hagar begin to do? Hagar began to _____. (Gen. 21:16)
- 28 What was Ishmael doing? Ishmael was _____ too. (Gen. 21:17)
- 29 Why do you think Ishmael was crying? Ishmael was most likely crying about the loss of his **f** _____ (opposite of "mother") and **h** _____ (the place where you live).



Ishmael probably lost the will to live.

- 30 Who heard Ishmael's cries? _____ heard Ishmael's cries. (Gen. 21:17)

Psalm 56:8

Make a record of my sadness. List my tears in Your book. Aren't You making a record of them?

- 31 Does God hear your cries too? (Yes/No) _____.
- 32 Who called out to Hagar from Heaven? The _____ of _____ called out to Hagar from Heaven. (Gen. 21:17)
- 33 What did God tell Hagar? God told Hagar to _____ be _____ and to _____ up the boy and _____ him by the hand. (Gen. 21:17)

- 34 What else did God tell Hagar? God told Hagar He would make Ishmael into a _____ nation. (Gen. 21:18)
- 35 What did Hagar see when God opened her eyes? Hagar saw a _____ of _____. (Gen. 21:19)
- 36 What did Hagar do when she saw the well of water? Hagar went and _____ the bottle with water and gave the boy a _____. (Gen. 21:19)
- 37 What gave Ishmael the will to live? It wasn't the water that gave Ishmael the will to live. It was knowing that God _____ and cared for him.
- 38 Who was with Ishmael when he grew up? _____ was with Ishmael when he grew up. (Gen. 21:20)



In other words, God became Ishmael's father.

- 39 Where did Ishmael live? Ishmael lived in the _____. (Gen. 21:20)
- 40 What did Ishmael learn to do? Ishmael learned to _____ a bow and arrow. (Gen. 21:20)
- 41 Who got Ishmael a wife while he was living in the Desert of Paran? Ishmael's _____ got him a wife while he was living in the Desert of Paran. (Gen. 21:21)
- 42 Where did Hagar get Ishmael a wife? Hagar got Ishmael a wife from _____. (Gen. 21:21)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God's Word?
