

LESSON 13

# Isaac & Ishmael

GENESIS 21:1-21



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

**THE PROMISE OF A SON IS FULFILLED**

LESSON SNAPSHOT

**1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Cup filled with water

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 13)

**3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

Where Is Jesus?

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

**4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Snack food/water

**5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

**6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN**

Coloring Page 13

**SUPPLIES:** markers/crayons

Hagar and Ishmael Drama

God’s Faithfulness Guessing Game

**7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60-75 MIN**

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today's lesson the children will learn how God kept his promise and gave Abraham and Sarah a son of their own.

Before class, fill a cup with water and put it in full view but in a place the children will not pay attention to it at all.

Tell your students to open their eyes. They will likely murmur that their eyes are already open. Then tell them that having their eyelids open doesn't mean they easily see everything. Ask them if they notice anything new in your classroom that was not there last week. Reveal to them that there is a cup of water somewhere in the room, and instruct them to silently raise their hand without pointing once they find it.

Once everyone has a raised hand, go over to the water and ask them why they didn't see it at first. Were their eyes broken? Did it suddenly appear? No, it just took your revealing it to help them see it. Explain to them that sometimes our faith works this way. God is always at work, but we sometimes need his help to see what he is doing. Tell the class that God provided a surprise well of water for someone in the Bible story you are about to read.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 13, "Isaac and Ishmael," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What were the names of Abraham's two sons?  
(*Isaac and Ishmael*)
  
- Who was born first, Isaac or Ishmael?  
(*Ishmael*)

- What did Sarah, Isaac’s mother, ask Abraham to do with Ishmael?  
*(send away him and his mother, Hagar)*
- Why did Sarah want Ishmael to be sent away?  
*(She didn’t want him to share or take any of the promises God made to Isaac.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Why did Isaac make his mother laugh?  
*(Old women are not normally able to have babies. The blessing of a son that God gave her filled her and brought her laughter when she thought of how amazing it was!)*
- Has a baby ever made you laugh? What do babies do that make us laugh?  
*(Accept any answer.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 13—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Why were Hagar and Ishmael so sad?  
*(They were sent away and ran out of water.)*
- What did God do for them?  
*(He opened Hagar’s eyes to see a well of water for her and her son.)*
- Have the children draw in a well and water and have them change the sad looks to happy ones.

## Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:28–31

An important part of God's plan is that no person will be able to boast about what he has done for God. Instead, all our boasting should be about what God has done for us. That was certainly true of Abraham's life. Let's take one more quick look at that story.

God promised to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah. Sarah seemed to be too old to have children, so she suggested Abraham take a second, younger wife to have a son. That's how Ishmael was born. Ishmael was Abraham's effort to make God's promise come true. But later on Sarah gave birth to Isaac, which was a miracle.

God wants all of our boasting to be about what God does for us, not what we do for ourselves. God wants us to give him the glory and praise for our salvation. That is why God gave Isaac to Abraham in his old age, and that is the pattern God follows in saving us. There is nothing we can do to take away our own sin. We must depend on Jesus to take it away. When God saves us, we know that all of the credit should go to God.

### Hagar and Ishmael Drama

Ask for volunteers to play the roles of Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael. Also pick several children to be the well and several, the bush.

Follow the story as it appears in the Bible, giving the children any clues they need to perform the skit. The children who are the bush should hold their hands up over their heads with their fingers spread like leaves and branches. The children who are the well should form a circle, each person crouched down and facing the center.

When Hagar's eyes are opened, the children forming the well should, all at once, stand up and wave their arms to suggest a well overflowing with water. Have Hagar pretend to gather some water and give her son a drink. Spend time talking about God's faithfulness in providing for our needs. Ask the children how Jesus' death on the cross for us is like the well water God provided for Hagar and her son.

*(Jesus death on the cross is what saves us. The well water was what God provided to save Hagar and her son.)*

### God's Faithfulness Guessing Game

Explain to the children that a faithful person is a person who keeps his promises. Tell them you are going to play a game and see if they can guess all the ways that God was faithful in this story. Give them clues to help them along. You can also divide them into two teams and have a competition.

#### **WAYS GOD IS FAITHFUL IN GENESIS 21:**

1. Sarah had a child in her old age.
2. The son was born right on time just as God said he would be.
3. The child was a boy just like God said.
4. God took care of Ishmael and Hagar in the desert.
5. God stayed with Ishmael as he grew up.

### **PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 13 - ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

