

LESSON 13

Isaac & Ishmael

GENESIS 20–21



BIBLE TRUTH

THE PROMISE OF A SON IS FULFILLED

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Genesis 21:1–7 from the Scriptures or read story 13, “Isaac and Ishmael,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
A Promise Fulfilled
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
A Refreshing Drink
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ pitcher of water
 - ✓ cups
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 13—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Abraham—One Hundred Years Old

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Abraham struggled in trusting God—God had promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son, but that hadn't happened yet. Abraham was afraid the Egyptians might kill him to get Sarah, his wife. So for a second time he had Sarah tell the Egyptians that she was his sister (the first time appears in Genesis 12:10–20).

Even as Abraham waited in faith for God's promise, at the same time he was fearful and struggled to trust God. How kind of God to show us Abraham's weakness. God knows that all our lives are a mixture of faith and doubt. Sometimes we trust God and sometimes we don't. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25–34 to seek first God's kingdom and there will be no need to worry.

God fulfilled his promise to Abraham—After years and years of waiting, God fulfilled his promise to Abraham by giving Sarah a son. Sarah, who once laughed in her unbelief, now laughed with joy over what God had done. Abraham was one hundred years old when his son was born, and he named the son Isaac just as God had commanded (Genesis 17:17). The promised son had come. God had kept his covenant with Abraham.

God saved Ishmael and Hagar—Ishmael mocked Isaac, the child of promise, so he and his mother were sent away. But Abraham loved Ishmael, so God saved Hagar and Ishmael from dying of thirst. God also kept his promise to make a great nation of Ishmael.

In Galatians 4:21–31, Paul uses this story to compare the old covenant with the new covenant. Ishmael, who was born because Abraham didn't completely trust God, is like the old covenant, which was based on trying hard to obey laws. But Isaac, whose birth was a miracle of God, is like the new covenant, which is based on trusting what is promised to us in Jesus.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 21:1–7 from the Scriptures or read story 13, "Isaac and Ishmael," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Promise Fulfilled

Ask the children to think of a promise that someone made to them that took a long time to fulfill but in the end was honored. This could be a gift like a bicycle they were promised for

a birthday or a trip they were promised or a responsibility they were promised when they achieved a certain standard or age.

Have some of the children share their stories with the class. Ask the children at the end of their stories if at any point they felt like giving up. Ask them how they felt when their promise was fulfilled.

Draw the connection to our story. Read Genesis 21:1–7 to the class and ask them to imagine what it would have been like for Sarah to realize she was pregnant.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

A Refreshing Drink

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pitcher of water
- ✓ cups

Prior to class, hide the pitcher of water and cups in your classroom. Tell the story of how Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away in Genesis 21:8–21. When you get to the part where Abraham sends them away (verse 14) instruct the class to pretend they are Hagar or Ishmael and start to wander in the wilderness. Have them pretend to get tired, then thirsty, and finally have them collapse unable to go any further. Then read the rest of the story. When you get to verse 19, pretend to discover the pitcher. Pour water into a cup for each child. Allow them to enjoy a refreshing drink while you talk about how God provided for Ishmael.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Abraham—One Hundred Years Old

To help the kids grasp just how old one hundred is count with them from one to ten and then ask if they know anyone who is ten years old. Then continue counting from eleven to twenty, and ask if they know someone who is twenty years old. Do the same for each decade up to one hundred. Prior to class come up with your own list of church members you know who are close in age to the decades ten to one hundred. Once you reach one hundred ask the class if they know anyone who is one hundred. In most cases the only person they will be able to say is Abraham!

If you have a member of the congregation over eighty, invite them to your class and ask them a few questions about how old they were when their last child was born. Ask them if they would be surprised if God told them they were going to have a baby. This should help the class grasp just how old one hundred is.

LESSON 13 - ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

