

# ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 21:1-21



## The STORY

Read "Isaac is Born" and "Sent Packing" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 30-31).

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 him and his mother, Hagar, away.)
- 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.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Hagar and Ishmael in the desert with sad faces. Engage the children by asking:**

- 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.

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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.)

### 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.*

God intended to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah. When Sarah grew old, she suggested Abraham take a second wife who was younger in order to produce a son. Ishmael was the fruit of Abraham's own work – his attempt to make God's promise come about by his own effort. Isaac was a child supernaturally born in Sarah's old age. From the story of Abraham and Sarah, we learn that when God makes a promise, He will keep it. God's promise was fulfilled when Isaac is born and His plan was that through Isaac, Jesus would ultimately come. Jesus brought a salvation which is by faith, not works, so no one should boast.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

