

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Genesis 21:1-13

For Starting

- Describe the member of your family you are most like. Why?
- What is the ONE thing that you will never compromise or cannot live without?
- In 3 words, describe what "church" should look like.
- What are some of the ways that God has increased your patience in the last 6 months?

For Reviewing

- What did God do for Sarah (v.1)? See also Genesis 18:10.
- How old was Sarah when she gave birth (v.2)? See Gen 17:17
- What does the name "Isaac" mean (v.3)? See footnote.
- What did Abraham do when Isaac was 8 days old (v.4)? Why? See Genesis 17:12.
- Why was Sarah laughing (v.6-7)? Was this appropriate?
- What did Abraham do when Isaac was weaned (v.8)?
- What did Sarah see Ishmael doing at the feast (v.9)?
- Describe the way Sarah told Abraham what to do (v.10)?
- How did God reassure Abraham about Ishmael (v.12-13)?

For Discussion

- Sarah is the only woman to have her age recorded in the Bible! In what way/s does this make her even more special?
- Work out Ishmael's age when Abraham sent him away? See Gen 17:24-25 & Gen 21:5. Isaac was probably weaned when 3 years old. Do you think Ishmael's age helped Abraham's distress (v.11)? How would God's word about Ishmael help?
- Although Ishmael is older than Isaac, where else does God confirm that Isaac will take priority? See Genesis 21:12, Romans 9:7-8 and Hebrews 11:17-18. Why is this important?
- "*The Christian life is a land of hills and valleys*" [George Morrison]. Do you agree/disagree? Why or why not?
- You could end by reading together Genesis 21:6.

Genesis 21:1-13 (NIVUK)

The birth of Isaac

¹ Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac¹ to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, 'God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.' ⁷ And she added, 'Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.'

Hagar and Ishmael sent away

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, 'Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.'

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, 'Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.'

¹ *Isaac means he laughs*