

Family Worship Guide

Week 11

Read

- **Genesis 21:1-14**

- **Questions**

1. Take a look at Genesis 21:1. What are the two things God does in this verse?

First, the text says that the LORD was gracious to Sarah. Second, the LORD did what He promised: He gave Sarah a son. God loves to be gracious with us. God loves to prove to us that His promises are true.

2. Do you remember what Sarah did when she first heard the prophecy that she would have a son in her old age?

She laughed. She didn't think it was possible. It was not a laugh of joy, but more like snickering or sneering. Even though Sarah laughed and doubted God, God was gracious to her and fulfilled His promise. Sarah doubted, but God was faithful.

3. What does the name Isaac mean? Why do you think they gave him this name?

Isaac means "laughter" or "he laughs." Sarah's first laughs were filled with doubt. Imagine how she and Abraham were laughing now with joy at the birth of their son!

4. Unfortunately, the whole family was not laughing. What happened with Hagar and Ishmael?

Ishmael was upset that Isaac had been born. He wanted to be the child of the promise. He was making fun of the baby boy Isaac! Abraham's family was now in chaos and pain because had not trusted God 14 years ago. God wanted Abraham to wait for a son, but Abraham and Sarah took matters into their own hands. Their sin was still causing problems - 14 years later! It got so bad that God directed Abraham to remove Hagar and Ishmael from the family. This was a very hard, sad situation...one that would not have happened if Abraham and Sarah had trusted God.

5. God has made many promises to us in the Bible. Can you think of some of those promises? Which promise is the most exciting to you?

You can find hundreds of promises in the Bible just by typing "God's promises" into an internet search engine. Consider having each person in the family write down one of God's promises from the Bible on a 3x5 card. You

can put those "promise cards" around the house to remind the family of God's promises throughout the week.

Praise

Praise God for giving us:

Himself

Grace and Mercy

Salvation

Our family

Our church family

What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

Praise Him for the fact that He keeps His promises. He is gracious. Even when we doubt Him, He is faithful. He is never "late" - but always fulfills His promises at the perfect time. Praise God for these things!

Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION - "He keeps His promises."
- CONFESSION - "Confess our doubts"
- THANKSGIVING - "How has God kept His promises to your family?"
- SUPPLICATION - "God encourages us to bring all of our needs and burdens to Him."
- Pray that we will live obediently to God's Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our Life Groups and Life Group Leaders.

Memorize

"Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what He promised."

Genesis 21:1

Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

Kids Fun

Option 1

Supplies needed:

A lump of Play-Doh for each person OR a sheet of blank paper and something to write with for each person. The activity below will be written assuming you have Play-Doh. Adjust as needed.

I need everyone's help to get our family worship time started. I am going to give each of you a lump of Play-Doh.

Give everyone some Play-Doh. If you don't have any, give everyone a piece of paper and something to write with.

Now, I'd like each of us to take our Play-Doh and make it into something that reminds us of a funny family story. When you think of the funny things that have happened to our family, what comes to mind? It might be a small thing, or something that happened a long time ago. Do you have a family memory that makes you laugh? Turn your Play-Doh into something that reminds you of that story or that memory.

Give people time to transform their Play-Doh. If you are using paper, give people a chance to draw their picture. Little ones may need to partner up with older siblings or with a parent.

Let's share our stories! Who wants to go first? Tell us about what you made and share your story or your memory.

Enjoy reminiscing with each other.

Laughter is a gift from God. Laughter is going to be a big part of our Bible reading today. We are going to read about a family that God blessed with laughter.

For Teens

1. The events with Hagar and Ishmael are hard to understand. Hagar was mistreated by Sarah. Ishmael had to leave his father when he was 14 years old. It is understandable that Ishmael would be jealous. Read Genesis 21:14-21. How did God provide for Hagar and Ishmael after they had been sent into the wilderness? What does this tell you about God?

2. Why did God choose to make His covenant with Isaac and not Ishmael?

God is sovereign. He rules everything and everyone in the universe, and He chooses what to do. We don't always understand God's choices. When we see God's choices, we then have a choice. Will we trust that God is doing the right thing, or will we doubt God and accuse Him of being unfair?

3. Are there situations in your life where you feel that God has been unfair with you? How have you responded? Are you facing a choice right now between believing that God knows what is best for your life versus doubting Him and being angry with Him?