

# Family Worship Guide

## Week 9

### Read

- **Genesis 16:1-18:15**

- **Questions**

**1. In our last time of family worship we learned that God promised that He would give Abraham a son, and many descendents. But time had passed and Abraham's wife Sarai still was not pregnant. What did she do?**

She asked her servant Hagar to try to have a baby with Abraham. Unfortunately, Abraham agreed with this plan. (You may need to remind the family that when we first meet Abraham's wife her name is Sarai, but God later changes her name to Sarah.)

**2. Instead of coming up with their own plan, what should Abraham and Sarai have done?**

They should have trusted God, believed His promise, and waited for Him to do what He said he would do.

**3. Even though Abraham and Sarah doubted God, God remained faithful to them. Look again at Genesis 17:6-7. What is a covenant?**

A covenant is an agreement or a contract. In this case, God makes an agreement with Abraham. God announces to Abraham that He is going to use Abraham's descendents to bless the world.

**4. God keeps Abraham focused on his future children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. How can our family be a blessing for generations yet to be born?**

This is an opportunity to talk about how all the decisions that we make in our families today leave a legacy for our grandchildren and great grandchildren yet to be born. God's desire is that our faith would be a multi-generational faith. God's desire is that "our ceiling would be our children's floor." In other words, we want our children to love God more than we have, know the Bible better than we do, and carry the Gospel further than we can.

**4. In Genesis 18:12 Sarah laughs when she hears the angel tell Abraham that she will have a son in her old age. This was not the first time she heard the promise, but she still did not believe it. Are there ways that we struggle to believe what God has said?**

The world pressures us to laugh at what God has said in the Bible. People laugh at the idea that God created the world. People laugh at the truth that

Jesus rose again from the dead. People laugh at the idea that Jesus is coming back to judge the world. Every Christian struggles with doubts. This is a good opportunity for your family to share your doubts with each other, and ask God to strengthen your faith. Doubt your doubts! Believe your beliefs!

## 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?

## Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – “He keeps His promises. He speaks to us. He cares for us.”
- CONFESSION – “Confess our wrongs”
- THANKSGIVING – How has God blessed you? ....
- SUPPLICATION – “Do you need more faith? Ask God for it.”
- 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 EFM mission field in Nepal. Pray for the new believers and churches that God is planting there! Pray for the leadership! For strength and passion for the Gospel! Pray For Safety of our Missionaries!

## Memorize

**Genesis 18:14**–“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

## Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

### Kids Fun

#### Option 1

Supplies needed:

Something yummy that you can serve as a special dessert or snack. Keep it out of sight.

**We are going to have a great time at family worship tonight. I want to begin by making you a promise. I have something that I know that you are all going to enjoy. We have a special dessert/snack tonight. In a few minutes, we are all going to be able to enjoy it together! Let me tell you about it.**

Describe the food that you will be eating. Make it sound as appealing as possible. For instance, "We will have hand-scooped vanilla ice cream. Each person will be able to choose their own gourmet topping. Options will include Oreos, M & M's, sprinkles, and whipped cream."

**What do you all think? Raise your hand if you think my idea for this special treat is a good plan. I promise that we are going to all enjoy this together. How many of you would like to have our treats now?** Be prepared for cheers here! **I don't blame you. It is going to taste really good. But I have decided that we are going to save all the treats for after family worship. We will all get to practice a little patience.**

**It is hard to wait for things, isn't it? It is going to hard to wait for our dessert. Can you think of other things that are hard to wait for?**

Encourage everyone in the family to share a response to this question.

## For Teens

Talk about it

1. God did not bless Abraham with his son Isaac until 13 years after Ishmael was born. This was a major test of Abraham's faith and patience. Is God testing your faith right now? If so, how?
2. In Genesis 18:1-2, the Bible says that the LORD appeared to Abraham, but the next verse says that Abraham saw three men. Later, in chapter 19, two of the "men" are in fact revealed to be angels who then strike the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Many Bible scholars believe that the third "man" that Abraham saw was Jesus Christ, making an "appearance" here in the Old Testament. What do you think?
3. A major focus of the Abraham and Sarah story is the importance of marriage and children. Has God given you a desire for marriage and children? If so, what steps can you take now to prepare yourself to be a godly spouse and parent?
4. God worked a miracle when He enabled Abraham and Sarah to conceive a child. Do you believe God works miracles today? Can you think of a time where God answered one of your prayers?
5. In Genesis 16:12, we find a prophesy about Ishmael - the father of the Muslim religion. Muslims claim that the Bible was altered to reflect poorly on Ishmael and to make it look like Isaac was the son of the covenant. Do some research on how Christians can make a difference in the lives of Muslims. Go to [www.breakpoint.org](http://www.breakpoint.org) and type "Islam" in the search box to find a variety of thought provoking articles.