

NAME _____

Lesson #14---THE SLAVE'S SON
Scripture: Genesis 21:1-21

TO HELP US STUDY:

1. How old was Abraham when his promised son was born? _____
2. What did he name the boy? _____
3. What did Abraham do on the day Isaac was weaned? _____

4. Why did Sarah get mad? _____
5. What did she want Abraham to do? _____
6. Did Abraham love Ishmael? _____ How do you know? _____

7. What did Hagar do when her water was gone? _____

8. What did God do to save her? _____
9. What unkind acts in Abraham's family led to Hagar's being cast out? _____

10. Are there some ways that you are less than kind to your family? _____

HELP US REMEMBER: young ones - Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another."
older ones - Ephesians 4:31-32

TO CHALLENGE TEEN THOUGHT: God promised Hagar that He would bless Ishmael. "I will make him a great nation." In a good Bible dictionary (there is one in the church library) read about a Ishmael and find out what nation descended from him.

TO HELP PARENTS TEACH: Why did Sarah want to send Ishmael away? Was it because Ishmael "mocked" Isaac as the King James Version reads in Genesis 21:9? Or did the very sight of Ishmael disgust Sarah? Was she so prejudiced AND JEALOUS OF THE Egyptian handmaid and her son that she was angry without cause, as the RSV reading of the verse would seem to indicate?

Which is right? You need to know, for this changes the whole point of the story. If Sarah saw Ishmael actually mistreating her son, then our children will readily accept the fact that Ishmael "got his"---that he was punished for his unkindness. But if Sarah just lashed out in perulance and God supported her in it, where is the justice?

Perhaps it will help to read Galatians 4:29. Beyond a doubt, Paul and the Holy Spirit understood Genesis 21:9 to mean that Ishmael "persecuted" Isaac. Add to this your current knowledge of Hagar's haughty cruelty on previous occasions and you will see why Sarah was unhappy. You will have a powerful lesson for any of us who might be tempted to treat the members of our families unkindly.

FOR ADULT STUDY: Gal 4:21-31; Prv 16:24; Rom 12:9; 2 Pt 1:7; Mt 5:3-9; Gal 5:22; Jas 3:17; Eph 4:1-2; Col 3:21; Eph 5:28-33; 6:1-4

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