

Discussion Questions for Genesis 21:11-21 - Hagar and Ishmael

Why was Sarah upset with Hagar and her son, and what did she tell Abraham to do? (21:8-10)

Why do you think Sarah reacted so harshly to Ishmael's treatment of Isaac (Gen. 21:9-10)?

Why do you think God compelled Abraham to heed her orders instead of insisting that Ishmael stay? How does (Gal. 4:29) offer insight?

How did Abraham respond to Sarah's request? (21:11-13)

What happened to Hagar and her son? (21:14-20)

What does (Gen. 21:12-21) show about God's nature? Look up (Psalm 68:5-6; 34:18; Isaiah 54:5) for help.

In what ways was the birth of Isaac like the birth of Jesus? In what ways were they different?

In what way did Ishmael's welfare and future depend on his response to Isaac?

In what way does your welfare and future depend on your response to another child of promise, Jesus Christ?

How would you have felt if you had been Abraham? Sarah? Hagar? Ishmael? Who had the hardest time trusting God?

Why didn't Abraham supply Hagar and Ishmael with plenty of supplies and servants?

How can we know if our efforts for God stem from the flesh or from His power? Does His power make it easy?

Was God unfair to choose Isaac and send Ishmael away? Did His choice show approval of Sarah's jealousy? Why/why not?

In Genesis 21, we are reminded of "the God who hears" – El Shama, and "the Everlasting God" – El Olam. What is the significance of these names of God in the biblical context? What is the significance of these names of God in your context?