## **GENESIS 21 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

## PROMISE KEEPING GOD - (SERMON MP3)

Interact with the following statements in the context of Genesis 21 and in the context of your own life. How do these fit into the story of Abraham and Sarah, and how do they fit into your story?

- You can trust God's faithfulness. He keeps his word.
- You can trust God's power. He can perform the miraculous.
- You can trust God's sovereignty. His ways are always right and timely.
- You can trust God's compassion. He has a special love for the hurting, broken, and alone.
- You can trust God's watch-care. He will protect and provide.

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?

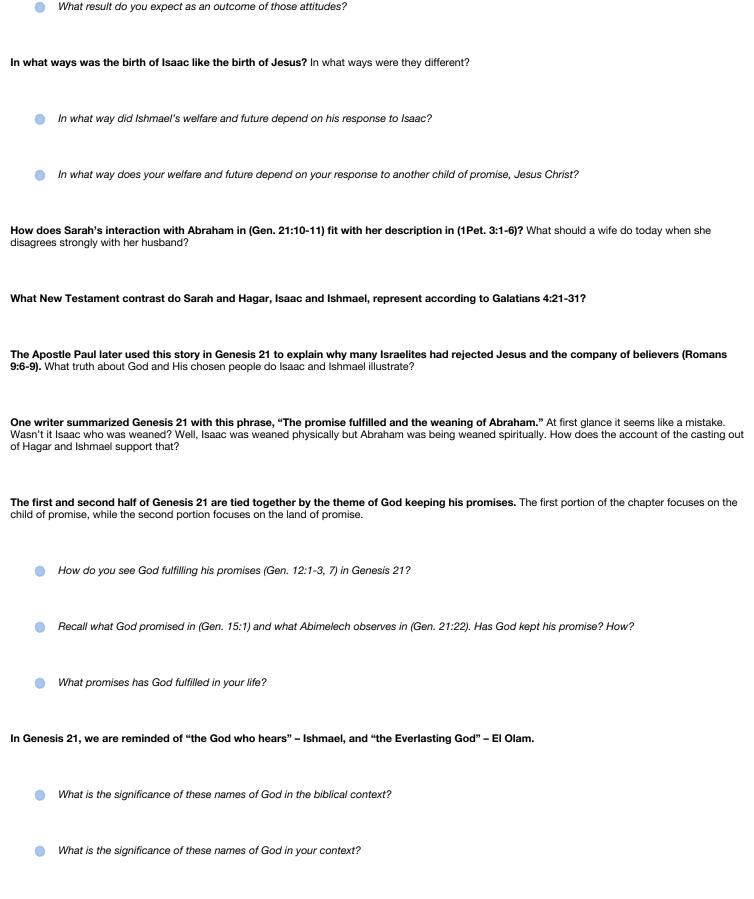
- List several reasons why Abraham did not want to see Ishmael go.
- Why was it necessary?
- What promise did God give Abraham concerning this son?
- What does (Gen. 21:12-21) show about God's nature? Look up (Psalm 68:5-6; 34:18; Isaiah 54:5) for help.

Disobedience has painful consequences. Whit it was years after the union of Abraham and Hagar (a union that denied the power of God to fulfill his covenant), Abraham had to face up to his wrong and send his concubine and son away. Sooner or later the consequences for sin will be reaped by the sinner.

- Can you think of some other biblical examples of where sin remained dormant for a while, but then devastating consequences came to the surface? Can you think of any passages of Scripture that speak to this truth about sowing and reaping.
- What do you think of this admonition: "Do not sow your wild oats and then pray for a crop failure. It is unlikely to happen."

Faith, patience, and perseverance - that's what it takes to inherit a promise (Heb. 6:12; 10:35-36). After about 25 years of waiting Abraham was finally rewarded with the birth of a son through Sarah.

In what areas of your life is God currently requiring faith, patience, and perseverance?



How can you let something in this study affect your life? Is there some passage you want to meditate on, some action you want to take, or some change of attitude you want to pray about?