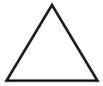


## 6

## A Son Is Born. A Son Is Promised.

## LESSON

Bible Passage – Genesis 16, 17

*Vocabulary Words*

*mercy* (məɾ' sē): great kindness, compassion, and goodwill shown to another

*reverence* (rev' rəns): a feeling of deep respect and honor mixed with wonder or fear

Ten years had passed since God first promised Abram many descendants, but Abram still had no child. Now he was eighty-five years old. How could God keep His promise of a child when both Abram and Sarai were so old?

Sarai had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar (hā' gār). One day, Sarai suggested to Abram that Hagar could have the promised son for Abram. In those times, if a woman was unable to have children, the custom was that she could count her servant's children as her own.

Abram agreed to the arrangement. Before long, Hagar realized that she, rather than Sarai, would be the mother of Abram's child. Hagar became proud and was disrespectful to Sarai. This made Sarai angry, and she treated Hagar harshly. Unhappy and miserable, Hagar decided to run away. She fled across the Negev desert toward Egypt, her homeland. Soon she became tired and stopped beside a spring of water to rest.

God looked on Hagar with **mercy**. He sent an angel of the LORD to give her a message of hope.

The angel of the LORD called, "Hagar, are you not the servant of Sarai? What are you doing here? Where have you come from? Where are you going?"

"I am running away from my mistress Sarai," Hagar replied. "I do not want to stay with her or serve her anymore."

"Go back to your mistress Sarai and try to please her. God knows all your troubles, for He sees and hears you. He will help you," the angel told her. "After a while God will give you a son, and you shall name him Ishmael (ish' mā əl)."

The name *Ishmael* means "God hears." Whenever Hagar would say her son's name, she would remember that God had heard her in her time of trouble.

Then the angel of the LORD told Hagar that Ishmael and his descendants would be strong and powerful. They would not be ruled by anyone; instead they would roam freely about the deserts.

Hagar was comforted by this. The angel's words gave her new confidence to go back and serve Sarai. God kept His promise to give

Hagar a son. When he was born, she named him Ishmael, just as the angel had said. Abram, who was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born, loved Ishmael and thought he was the long-awaited son. But Ishmael was not the child that God had promised to give him.

Another thirteen years passed by, and when Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him once again: “I am the Almighty God. Walk before Me and be blameless in all your ways, and I will make you a father of many nations,” God said.

In **reverence**, Abram bowed on his knees until his forehead touched the ground. God

continued to speak. “I am going to change your name,” the LORD said. “No more will you be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, because I am going to make you the father of many, many nations.

“Your wife’s name will be changed from Sarai to Sarah. About this time next year, you and Sarah will have a son. She will become the mother of nations, and kings of nations shall come from Sarah.”

Abraham laughed to himself. “How can this happen to a man who is one hundred years old? Can Ishmael not be the promised son?”



## Lesson 6

“No,” the LORD answered. “I will bless Ishmael, but the son that Sarah gives you will be the son of My promise, and you shall name him Isaac. When he becomes a man, he will have very many descendants.”

And so God renewed His covenant with Abraham. God promised to give Abraham a son, to whom God would pass His covenant and blessings.

Ishmael's descendants were skilled traders. They traded spices from Arabia with the people of Canaan and with the Egyptians. The most important of these spices were cassia, cloves, and cinnamon. Ishmaelite traders traveling from Arabia to Egypt bought Joseph from his brothers and sold him in Egypt as a slave.

## KNOW YOUR BIBLE

1. Sarai's maid \_\_\_\_\_ was from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. a. \_\_\_\_\_ was the son of Sarai's maid and Abram.  
b. This son's name means \_\_\_\_\_.  
c. According to the angel what would this son and his descendants be like?

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3. Write Abram and Sarai's new names: \_\_\_\_\_
4. **True False** Ishmael was not the son God had promised to give Abraham.
5. **True False** Abraham did not love Ishmael.
6. What happened after Hagar knew she would have Abram's child?
  - a. She tried harder to please her mistress Sarai.
  - b. Abram began to honor Hagar above Sarai.
  - c. Hagar became proud and no longer honored Sarai.
  - d. Her son became the son of promise rather than Sarai's.
7. Hagar ran away because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. she was not pleased with the way Sarai treated her
  - b. she felt too proud to be a maid any longer
  - c. she did not want to be Abram's wife
  - d. she wanted to roam freely about the desert

8. Why did Hagar return to Sarai?
  - a. God promised to make her son the promised one.
  - b. Sarai apologized for treating Hagar badly.
  - c. Abram accepted her son as the son of promise.
  - d. The angel's message from God gave her confidence to return.

## KNOW GOD

- ① In this story, we see God doing many loving things to bless and help people. Use the words from the list to complete the sentences that describe God's loving care for His people. You may change the form of a word to make it fit the sentence.

promise      mercy      send      hear      trouble      renew

9. God \_\_\_\_\_ His covenant with Abraham.
10. The great kindness God felt toward Hagar is called \_\_\_\_\_.
11. God \_\_\_\_\_ to give Hagar a son whose children would be strong.
12. God \_\_\_\_\_ an angel to Hagar when she was in trouble.
13. God knew all about Hagar's \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ her cries.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. God appeared to Abraham when Abraham was ninety-nine years old. God used a name for Himself that you learned in the last LightUnit. This name points to God's omnipotence. Write that name: "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ God."

## TAKE IT TO HEART

15. How did Abraham show his reverence for God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LOOKING BACK

16. In Abraham's day, if a man had no children when he died, a \_\_\_\_\_ would become owner of all that man's possessions.
17. Name the three parts of the covenant promise God made to Abraham at Hebron: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

## Lessons 6, 7

18. God told Abraham that long after his death, Abraham's descendants would \_\_\_\_\_.
19. God considered Abraham to be \_\_\_\_\_ because Abraham believed God's word.
20. What word picture did God use to tell Abraham about the number of his descendants?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. God compared Himself to a \_\_\_\_\_ that would protect Abraham.
22. God's \_\_\_\_\_ with Abraham pointed to Jesus Christ becoming the Saviour of the whole \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Why can we always trust what God says? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 7

## LESSON

# “What if There Are Ten?”

*Bible Passage – Genesis 18*

One day, the LORD appeared to Abraham. It was a warm, sunny day on the plain of Mamre near Hebron. Abraham was sitting in the doorway of his tent, resting in the hottest part of the day. As his eyes scanned the countryside, Abraham noticed three men standing at a little distance from him.

Abraham arose and ran to greet the men. He bowed low to the ground, as was the custom when welcoming an honored guest. He

said, “Please, come and rest a while under the tree, where it is cooler. Let me get a little food and some water to wash your feet before you continue on your way.”

After the men were seated in the shade, Abraham dashed into the tent to Sarah. “Hurry,” Abraham said, “take some of our best flour and bake bread to serve our guests.” Then he rushed out to the field and selected a choice calf. He instructed a servant to butcher it and prepare the meat for serving. Abraham

quickly brought some milk and butter. When all the food was ready to eat, Abraham brought it to the men. While they ate, he stood nearby, ready to serve them. Abraham was happy to serve these visitors, for he was kind and generous.

Two of the men were angels in the form of men, and the other was the LORD Himself, also in the form of a man!

After a while, the men asked, “Where is Sarah, your wife?”

“In the tent,” Abraham replied. It was a custom of the day that women kept out of sight whenever men were visiting. So Sarah

remained inside the tent. However, since the tent was made of goat’s hair, Sarah could hear everything the men said.

The LORD said to Abraham, “Before another year is past, Sarah will have a son.” Here was God’s promise again! But when Sarah heard these words, she laughed to herself and thought, “Abraham and I are so old; how is it possible for us to have a baby?” Abraham was now ninety-nine years old. Sarah was eighty-nine.

“Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for God?” the LORD asked. “It will happen; Sarah will have a son!”



## Lesson 7

Embarrassed, Sarah denied that she had laughed. But the LORD admonished her, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Sarah thought no one had heard her, but she forgot that God is omniscient. He knew her thoughts, and He could hear her laugh within herself.

After the meal, the three men rose to leave. They walked toward the east, where the hills overlook the Dead Sea. Abraham walked with them a little way. Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am going to do? Abraham is to be the father of a great people, and through him all the world shall receive a blessing. I know that he will teach his children to obey me. I will tell Abraham my plans.”

“The cry of Sodom’s wickedness has come to me,” the LORD told Abraham. “I am going down to Sodom and Gomorrah to see if they have done as wickedly as it seems. If they have, I will destroy those cities.”

The angels went on toward Sodom and Gomorrah, while Abraham and the LORD remained standing together.

Sodom! That was where Lot lived. Abraham knew the wickedness of Sodom. He loved Lot and thought about what would happen to Lot if God destroyed the city. Abraham turned to the LORD and inquired, “Will you destroy the righteous along with the wicked? If there are fifty righteous people in Sodom, will you still destroy it?”

“If there are fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare it,” the LORD said.

Abraham knew there might not be even fifty righteous people in Sodom. He said, “I am just a common man, made of dust; perhaps I shouldn’t say anything more. But, what if there are forty-five righteous people? Will you destroy the city then?”

“I will spare the city if there are forty-five righteous people.”

Abraham was still troubled; he knew how wicked the people of Sodom were. “Suppose there are just forty righteous people—what then?” Abraham asked.

“I will not destroy the city if I find forty righteous people there,” the LORD answered.

“What if there are not even forty, but only thirty righteous people living there?” Abraham asked. Because the LORD is full of mercy, He replied that He would spare Sodom if He could find thirty righteous people living there.

Again Abraham appealed to the LORD for Sodom. “What about twenty righteous people?” The LORD agreed to spare the city for twenty righteous people. Finally, Abraham said, “Oh, LORD, do not be angry with me; I am going to speak only one more time. What if there are only ten righteous people in Sodom? Will you still destroy it?”

And again, the LORD mercifully answered, “If I find ten righteous people in the city, then I will not destroy it.”

Abraham kept his word—he did not ask anything more. Then the LORD, in the form of a man, went on His way, and Abraham returned to his tent.

## THOSE CURIOUS CUSTOMS

① In Abraham's day, people wore sandals. Most travel was done by walking. When a traveler stopped to rest, he would remove his sandals. If the traveler stopped to rest at someone's house, it was the custom for a servant to wash the guest's feet. It was not unusual for Abraham to offer this service, but it was unusual for Abraham himself to wash the men's feet, rather than having a servant do it.

1. Why was it strange for Abraham to wash his guests' feet? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write the name of the person in this story who practiced the following customs.

**Abraham**

**Sarah**

- a. People rested through the hottest part of the day. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. When men visited, women kept out of sight. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Guests' feet were washed. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Men greeted honored guests by bowing. \_\_\_\_\_

## KNOW YOUR BIBLE

3. Two \_\_\_\_\_ accompanied the LORD, who was in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, when He visited Abraham on the plain of Mamre.
4. Why were the visitors going to Sodom and Gomorrah?
  - a. They were going to pray for the people of Sodom.
  - b. They wanted to see if the cities were as wicked as they seemed to be.
  - c. They wanted to eat a meal in Sodom.
  - d. They were looking for Lot.
5. What did Abraham do when he heard why the angels were going to Sodom?
  - a. He prepared the angels a special meal.
  - b. He rejoiced that Sodom would be judged.
  - c. He asked the LORD how many righteous people lived in Sodom.
  - d. He asked God if He would spare Sodom.
6. Why did Abraham repeatedly ask the LORD about Sodom? **Check all that are true.**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ He knew Sodom was very wicked.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Lot lived in Sodom.

## Lesson 7

- \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham wanted to test God's patience.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham was worried about what would happen to Lot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham knew there were ten righteous people in Sodom.

## KNOW GOD

7. What quality of the LORD made it possible for Him to hear Sarah laugh to herself?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The LORD repeated His promise to give Abraham a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The LORD said that He would \_\_\_\_\_ Sodom if there were \_\_\_\_\_ righteous people there. This shows that God is full of \_\_\_\_\_.

## LOOKING BACK

10. a. \_\_\_\_\_'s new name was Sarah.  
b. Abram's new name was \_\_\_\_\_.
  11. Sarah's maid was \_\_\_\_\_.
  12. \_\_\_\_\_ was Hagar's son. His name means \_\_\_\_\_.
  13. Hagar became \_\_\_\_\_ and began to dishonor \_\_\_\_\_ when Hagar knew that she would have Abram's child.
  14. Why did Hagar leave Abram's home? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  15. What did the angel's message give Hagar confidence to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ① One of God's qualities made Him willing to spare Sodom if a few righteous people lived there. God showed this same quality of great kindness or compassion toward Hagar.
16. What is this quality? \_\_\_\_\_

### Write true or false.

17. \_\_\_\_\_ Hagar's son was the son that God had promised to Abraham.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham showed reverence for God by bowing to Him.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ God's angel told Hagar that her son would be a quiet, peaceable man.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham loved Hagar's son.