



Group Discussion Questions

Genesis Series - Ismael & Isaac - August 3 & 6, 2017

How much of your family genealogy do you know? Share a little about your oldest family history.

Read aloud: Genesis passages on sermon notes, (you may choose to look up references in your Bible because the passages in the sermon notes have been shortened for lack of space.)

What does the name Ishmael mean? Review the circumstances surrounding Ishmael being named by the angel of the Lord in Genesis 16. Why do you think God gave him that name? How did God giving him that name impact his mother Hagar? How did his name build her self-esteem or value? The first sermon note application point is, Your identity is a child of God, so how much value do you put on "God hearing" your prayers? As your heavenly father He's deeply interested in you, how much time do you spend with Him discussing your needs or difficulties? Can you share a time when God answered one of your prayers?

The second application point is God can move you past your past. What's one way God has helped you mature past a difficulty in your past? God also asked Hagar, "Where are you going?" So, where is God taking you in the future: Deeper relationship, knowledge of His Word, more meaningful worship or greater commitment to serve?

The third application is spend time every day in God's presence. When would that be for you: early morning, commute in the car with the radio off, during the day, evening, before bed? What would that time look like? Could you follow the GateWay staff prayer schedule?

The last application is to constantly remind yourself of God's loyal love. Would you be willing to write out part or all of Psalm 136 and post it somewhere you can see it every day?

Family Time: Tell your children about God's lovingkindness (loyal love) and brainstorm and write out at least a 4 or 5-line psalm together and make every 1st line something God has done for your family and every 2nd line, "For His lovingkindness is everlasting." Such as: "God has given us a wonderful house to live in, For His lovingkindness is everlasting. God has given us...For His lovingkindness..." Keep going as long as you can!