

Sarah, the Mother of Isaac

Sara, la madre de Isaac

What can we learn from Sarah?
¿Qué podemos aprender de Sara?

1. Let's believe in God's _____.

Creemos en las _____ de Dios.

Genesis 18:10-14 (Génesis 18:10-14)

Hebrews 11:11 (Hebreos 11:11)

2. Let's rejoice in God's _____.

Regocijémonos en el _____ de Dios.

Genesis 21:6-7 (Génesis 21:6-7)

1 Samuel 2:1-2 (1 Samuel 2:1-2)

Luke 1:46-48 (Lucas 1:46-48)

3. Let's follow God's _____.

Sigamos el _____ de Dios.

Genesis 17:16 (Génesis 17:16)

Genesis 21:8-12 (Génesis 21:8-12)

Galatians 4:28-31 (Gálatas 4:28-31)



Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." Genesis 21:6 (NIV)

Life Group Discussion Questions

Mother's Day 5/11/2025

Sarah, the Mother of Isaac

Genesis 21 contains three major events: the birth of Isaac, the sending away of Hagar and Ishmael, and the peace treaty between Abraham and Abimelech. All three of these events show God's grace correcting human failures. However, the birth of Isaac is the long-awaited fulfillment of the promise God first made to Abraham 25 years earlier (Gen. 12:2), and it is the continuation of God's redemptive plan to "crush the head of the serpent" through the "seed of the woman" (Gen. 3:15). Through the blessing of motherhood, God reminds us of His protective love and His plan for our redemption.

Read Genesis 21:1-34

1. What did the LORD do for Sarah? (21:1-2)
2. What did Abraham do when Isaac was 8 days old? (21:3-4)
3. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? (21:5)
4. How did Sarah praise God in verse 6?

The name Isaac means "he laughs." Both Abraham (Gen. 17:17) and Sarah (Gen. 18:13) laughed when they first heard that they would have a son in their old age. Paul Kissling writes,

Abraham and Sarah get the joke and remind themselves of God's hilarious graciousness every time they look at Isaac. Ultimately, God began the process of fulfilling his promises in his way, not through human reasoning and human planning. Such reasoning, consciously or unconsciously, assumes limitations on God's power. (Kissling, 175)

5. What did Sarah say in verse 7?
6. What did Abraham do when Isaac was weaned? (21:8)
7. What did Sarah tell Abraham to do? (21:9-10)

The word for “mocking” in verse 9 comes from the same root as Isaac’s name. However, the verb stem used here is intensive and indicates mocking laughter. Kent Hughes observes,

Here, the NIV’s “mocking” rightly catches the malicious sense of the laughter because Paul in Galatians 4:29 says that Ishmael “persecuted” Isaac. Understandably, young Ishmael felt jealousy at being displaced. Envy always magnifies the importance of the other and belittles our own. (Hughes, 294)

8. How did Abraham feel about Sarah’s request in verse 11?

9. What did God tell Abraham to do in verse 12?

10. What promise did God give to Abraham in verse 13?

James Smith notes,

Sarah’s demand may seem harsh, but the Apostle Paul put his stamp of approval upon it (Gal 4:30). Because he loved Ishmael so much, Abraham was grieved with the demand of his wife. What Sarah asked was not only personally painful, it was illegal under the law codes of that day. A special revelation was required to convince Abraham that he should go beyond the law and drive out Hagar. The patriarch was to listen to his wife. This direction was accompanied by a word of promise concerning the two sons. In Isaac, Abraham’s seed was to be called; yet because he was Abraham’s seed, God would also make a great nation of Ishmael (21:11-13). (Smith, 158)

11. Where did Hagar go when Abraham sent her and Ishmael away? (21:14)

12. What did Hagar do when she ran out of water? (21:15-16)

13. What did the angel of God tell Hagar? (21:17-18)

14. What did God do for Hagar in verse 19?

15. What did God do for Ishmael in verse 20?

16. What did Hagar do for Ishmael in verse 21?

17. Why did Abimelech want to form a treaty with Abraham? (21:22-24)
18. How did Abraham resolve the dispute about the well? (21:25-32)
19. How did Abraham address God in verse 33?

Kissling explains the significance of this designation for God. He writes, Abraham's worship referred to the Lord as the Eternal God, אֵל עֹלָם ('ēl 'ōlām). God's faithfulness is not just in the short term, but in the long term. The planting of the tree near a well, a symbol of ongoing life (Ps 1:3), indicates Abraham's confidence in that fact. That longevity is emphasized by the name used for the Lord: he is the eternal God. (Kissling, 188)

When Abraham planted a Tamarisk tree, he was demonstrating his faith in God's promise. This tree was not for him. It was for his descendants who would live in the land long after his death. Ray Vander Laan writes, The tamarisk, however, grows very slowly and requires much more water than other trees... It must be cared for and cultivated, but the person who plants it will not live to enjoy its cooling shade... As one elderly Bedouin man explained, "We plant tamarisks for our grandchildren," apparently meaning, "Because they grow so slowly and last for a long time, we will not enjoy them, but our grandchildren will." (Vander Laan, 140)

20. What does Sarah's spiritual journey teach us about God?
21. How can we confront unfair situations in a way that encourages healthy and peaceful relationships?
22. How can we be a blessing to future generations?

Sources cited:

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Vander Laan, Ray, Stephen, and Amanda Sorenson. *Walking with God in the Desert*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.