

Study Guide for Oct. 11th, 2009. Life of Abraham: Expulsion – Genesis 21:8-21.

Introduction: Describe a time you had to give something up. What made it difficult?

I. From Celebration to Conflict: (Gen. 21:8-13)

- A. What does Abraham celebrate? Why in those days might it be significant?
- B. What does Sarah observe? How does she identify to the people to Abraham?
- C. What does Sarah demand? What is her stated concern?
- D. Compare the motives and methods of Sarah's demand with those in chapter 16.
- E. How does Abraham react to Sarah's demand? What does God tell Abraham to do?
- F. What future does God reveal to Abraham concerning . . . Isaac? . . . Ishmael?
- G. Assuming that Abraham was in error listening to Sarah in chapter 16, why do you think God tells him to listen to his wife here?
- H. How will the separation of Ishmael serve God's larger purposes? (See Gal. 4:21-31)

II. From Departure to Despair and finally to Deliverance: (Gen. 21:14-21)

- A. When does Abraham act on God's directive? How would you describe the scene?
- B. Compare the verb used to describe the parting (vs. 14) with those of Sarah (vs. 10).
- C. What happens to the mother and child in the wilderness?
- D. What action does Hagar take? What does she pray for? What does she expect?
- E. Whose crying does God "hear" and respond to? Why is this significant?
- F. What destiny does God reveal to Hagar for her son? What does God provide?
- G. Note: "God's hearing brings salvation to the one cast out and her son. God's care is not tarnished by the jealousy of a rival family. Rejection and isolation brings a strange sweetness to a soul that finds God in a wilderness." (Brian Morgan)
- H. What is the final word on Ishmael and Hagar (vs. 20-21)?

Lessons: What conclusions can we draw from God's dealings with each character?