

FATHER ABRAHAM

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield
2026 April-June Sermon Series Study Guide

Genesis 21:1-21 (NIV)

1 Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac[a] to the son Sarah bore him. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. 12 But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring[b] will be reckoned. 13 I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she[c] began to sob.

17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. 18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. 21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Footnotes: [a] Isaac means he laughs. [b] Or seed [c] Hebrew; Septuagint the child

A Son to Abraham

OPEN

- Psalm 13:6 says, "I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me." Name one or two ways God has been good to you this week.
- Read Genesis 21:1-21.

STUDY

- From verses 1-7, in what ways has God been good to Sarah & Abraham? How do each of them respond to God's fulfilled promise.
- How does Sarah's mood change in verses 8-10? Does her demand seem reasonable to you? Why or why not?
- How does God intervene in Abraham's dilemma in verses 11-13? Does anything surprise you about his response? Explain
- How does God help and encourage Hagar and Ishmael in the desert (verses 14-20? Compare & contrast this interaction with the one in Genesis 16:6-16.
- Looking at the whole passage now, how do we see God protecting and fulfilling his original promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3?
- Who do you identify with more today— Sarah rejoicing in the fulfillment of a God-promise or Hagar in need of a reminder of God's goodness? Explain.

PRAY

- Read Psalm 13 aloud. Then pray together as a small group— rejoicing with those who rejoice and waiting with those who wait.