



Lesson 12 | God's Constant Grace

Genesis 21:1-21

Life is a series of ups and downs, yet throughout all life the one thing that never changes is God's grace. In this account of Abraham's life, we see God's grace in Abraham and Sarah's rejoicing, in Abraham's confusion over the conflict between Isaac and Ishmael, and in Hagar's complete despondency.

God's Grace in Our Joys (21:1-8)

God _____ His Word (1-2)

Three times in the first two verses we read variations of the phrase: "as God had said." God did what He said He would do, and the biblical author highlights that point so that it's impossible for us to miss it.

Abraham _____ Gods Word (3-5)

The next sequence shows Abraham doing what God had commanded him: he gives Isaac the name he was told to give him and he circumcises his son on the eighth day. Because God is faithful to what He has said He will do, we should obey Him in whatever He tells us.

Sarah and Abraham _____ (6-8)

Earlier in the story God told Sarah to name the child Isaac ("laughter") because she laughed in disbelief. Now Sarah is still laughing, but out of joy and wonder.

God's Grace in Our Confusion (21:9-13)

Ishmael _____ Isaac (9)

Ishamel was probably 16-18 years old when Isaac was weaned. When we read that he was "mocking" his brother, then, we have a young



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man mocking a toddler, an action that Sarah rightly perceives as a threat to Isaac's inheritance.

Sarah _____ Ishmael's Expulsion (10-11)

Sarah argues with Abraham that since Hagar is a slave her son will not only receive less of an inheritance from Abraham, but that he should receive nothing at all. Abraham is grieved by this, since he loves both sons, and is torn up by the thought of sending Ishmael away.

God _____ Abraham to Send Hagar Away (12-13)

God could have let Abraham feel the sting of his choices, but in His kindness and grace God tells Abraham what he should do. God is also kind to let Abraham know that He was not done with Ishmael, but that Ishmael too would become a great nation.

God's Grace in our Desperation (21:14-21)

Hagar's _____ Situation (14-16)

Hagar and Ishmael wander in the desert until they run out of water, and then Hagar gives up and prepares to die. God had earlier given a prophecy about Ishmael (16:12), and Hagar had been overwhelmed that God saw and heard her. Now she has given up hope.

God _____ to Hagar (17-18)

Hagar might not have cried out, but Ishmael did. So God comes to Hagar and tells her that He isn't done with her or with her son. Here in the desert, speaking to a rival of the promised son Isaac, God is showing goodness and favor to Hagar and Ishmael. God had instructed Abraham to send Ishmael away, but God that did not mean that God forget about Ishmael or the promises He made concerning Ishmael.

God _____ Ishmael (19-21)

This passage tells us that God was with Ishmael. Ishmael, the rival son of Isaac, the one cast out because he was mocking Isaac, has the blessing of God upon his life.

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