

# Israel's Patriarch

## A Study in Genesis 12-24

A Promise Fulfilled  
Genesis 21:1-21  
November 8, 2020

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. **-Genesis 21:1-2**

### I. GOD DID WHAT GOD DOES

- After all the build-up to Isaac's birth, God's promise fulfilled is virtually a "ho-hum" moment in the text (Vss. 1-7).
- God is ever faithful. He never fails on his promises (Josh. 21:45, 23:14; 1 Kings 8:56; Ps. 119:140; 2 Cor. 1:20; Gal. 3:16).

### II. LOOKING OUT FOR THE OPPRESSED

- Where Sarah fails in her compassion and graciousness, God excels (Vss. 8-10).
- Although Hagar and Ishmael are not blameless, they are certainly marginalized in Abraham's household.
- God cares for Hagar and Ishmael because they are made in his image, and because they are connected to Abraham (Vs. 13).
- God provides immediate help to Hagar and Ishmael, as well as a future (Vss. 15-21).

### III. AN IMMUTABLE GOD

- God is unchanging. Abraham changes, Sarah changes, life's circumstances change, but never the Lord. His promises are true because he never changes (Num. 23:19; Isa. 46:10; Mal. 3:6; James 1:16-17).
- Both Abraham and Sarah demonstrate faithlessness at times, yet God remains ever faithful. He will never disown Himself (2 Tim. 2:13).

**KNOW:** God's promise is true—Isaac is born. God's mercy is real. Hagar and her son Ishmael will be cared for, but they will not usurp the promise.

**DO:** Learn perseverance. Navigate the changing tides of life with a God who does not change.

### Suggested Reading:

*\*Whiter Than Snow: Meditations on Sin and Mercy* by Paul David Tripp (LifePoint Library #234 TRI).

*\*None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God* by Matthew Barrett (Located in the LifePoint Library)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Genesis 21:1-21

1. What happens to Sarah? Why does it happen? Is it a surprise to anyone?
2. Why do you think God approves of Sarah's decision to remove Ishmael from the family?
3. Talk a bit about Abraham's obedience here, and consider what will happen in chapter 22. What can we learn from his obedience?
4. Talk about God's mercy. How has he demonstrated mercy in your life?
5. What does it mean to you that God is immutable (he does not change)?
6. What is an application point for you from Sunday's message/text?