

SERIES TITLE: #LivingByFaith

PART 1: Through Joy and Sorrow

TEXT: GENESIS 21

INTRODUCTION.

The life of the great patriarch Abraham comprises a large portion of Genesis. As we continue studying through the entire book, we learn from Abraham what it means to live by faith.

DISCUSSION.

Which image best describes what life is like? A straight, six-lane superhighway or a winding, one-lane gravel road? Why?

EXAMINATION.

- 21:1-7 How does Sarah's reaction here compare with how she felt in 18:12?
- 21:8-13 Why would God side with Sarah in this?
- 21:14-21 Even though Ishmael was not the promised son, what does this scene tell us about the heart of God?
- 21:22-34 What do you think causes Abimelech to believe that God is with Abraham?
- What do you find significant about the name Abraham uses to worship the Lord, the Everlasting God (El Olam)?

APPLICATION.

- Sarah laughed in celebration over what God had done. When is the last time you rejoiced over an answer to prayer or a truth about God? What are some practical ways you can make that a more regular part of your life?
- The sad incident of Hagar and Ishmael being cast out of their home has a spiritual analogy. Read Galatians 4:22-31 and share how this applies to life today.
- How important is it to understand that God sees you and calls you by name? What are some of the reasons why you find that hard to believe or experience at times?

- Abraham is 100 years old and still waiting for God to fulfill his promises. When and how has God made you wait? Do you have a story about one of God's delays in your life and what you learned through it?
- THE ONLY CONSTANT IS THAT GOD IS WITH YOU. What difference does this truth make through all the ups and downs of life?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?