

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Genesis 21

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Genesis 21.

1. Who is the one acting in v. 1?
2. What is he acting according to? When did he make such promises?
3. What does this tell us about God? How should we respond to his Word in light of this?
4. When did Sarah conceive and give birth to Isaac according to v. 2?
5. What does this teach us about God and his timing?

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11. Read 21:8-10. How does Ishmael treat Isaac? Why is this ironic?

12. Was Sarah correct theologically in v. 10 – would Ishmael be heir with Isaac? Does that excuse her treatment of him and Hagar? (Note: how does Sarah refer to Hagar? Where else had Sarah treated Hagar with harshness?)

13. How does Abraham respond to Sarah's demand?

14. What was the reason God told Abraham to heed the voice of Sarah? How does this instruct us concerning God's sovereignty in accomplishing his purposes?

15. What does God tell Abraham to comfort him? Why does he say he will do this? Where else did God make this promise to Abraham concerning Ishmael?

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16. How does Abraham respond to God's instructions?

17. Who is the focus of the narrative in vv. 15-16? But who's voice did God hear in v. 17? Why is this significant in light of the previous verses?

18. How does God treat Hagar? How does God treat Ishmael? What is significant about the relationship expressed in v. 20 between God and Ishmael?

❖ Day 3

Read Genesis 21 again.

19. What does Abimelech recognize about Abraham and God in vv. 22-23? Recall Abimelech's compassion toward Abraham in 20:14-16. What does he ask of Abraham?

20. How does Abraham respond to Abimelech in v. 24?

21. What do vv. 25-34 reveal about Abimelech and his commitment to Abraham? What do these verses teach us about Abraham's commitment to Abimelech?

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22. What do vv. 25-34 teach us about God and his faithfulness?

23. How does the relationship between Abraham and Abimelech reflect God's promise in Gen 12:1-3?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would trust in God's promises, that we would live by faith in his Word, that we would patiently wait on the Lord while we hope in his Word, that we would be faithful, as our God is faithful.