Sermon Series: Abraham - A Journey of Faith

“The Highs and Lows of Life”               David Owens
Romans 8:38-39       8.20.17

Introduction:
A. Life is full of ________ and ________ and we can be sure we will have
moments of happiness and sadness, elation and depression, and joy and woe.
B. Our task is to learn to navigate the __________ of life as we walk with God and
depend on Him.

I. The Story
A. Genesis 21:1-7
1. In the first part of Abraham’s story segment for today we see him experience
one of life’s ________.
2. At long last, at the appointed time, Abraham and Sarah received the
fulfillment of the __________ - ________ was born.
3. In obedience to God’s command, Abraham circumcised his son on his
_________ day of life.
4. Isaac’s birth needed to be a supernatural demonstration of God’s power so
that the ________ for the miracle of Isaac’s birth would be ________ alone.
B. Genesis 21:8-11
1. The very next verse in Abraham’s story moves them from life’s highs to its
__________.
2. So Isaac was 3-years-old and Ishmael was 17-years-old and during the family
celebration for Isaac, Sarah caught Ishmael __________ her son, Isaac.
3. And so with motherly protectiveness mixed with petty jealousy, Sarah
demanded that Abraham _______ _______ of the slave woman and her son.
4. Anyone who lives in a __________ home can identify with Abraham’s
situation.
C. Genesis 21:12-21
1. The narrator twice described Abraham as distressed, but gracefully, God
stepped in and gave Abraham ____________ and a ____________.
2. God told Abraham that it was okay to follow Sarah’s instructions and _____
Hagar and Ishmael ________.
3. God promised to _________ of Ishmael and to multiply his descendants.
4. God’s treatment of Hagar can offer all of us some needed comfort, especially
those who are _________ parents. (Psalm 68:5-6)
5. God then helped Hagar to open her eyes to the __________ that God was
providing around her.

II. The Application
A. The first lesson I want us to take to heart is that God _______ His ____________.
   1. God is not in a ________.
   2. God never _________ His promises.
   3. God’s promises are linked to their __________.
B. The second lesson I want us to take to heart is that God’s __________ doesn’t
   necessarily remove ________, consequences.

II.A. keeps, promises. II.A.1. hurry. II.A.2. forgets. II.A.3. context. II.B. forgiveness, earthly.