I. WHO WAS ISHMAEL?

A. He was the first born son of Abraham—Gen. 16:1-4.

B. His story is found in Genesis 16, 17, 21, 25, and 28.

C. His name means “God hears” in Hebrew.

D. A description of his character is found in Gen. 16:11-12.

E. After Isaac was born he and his mother were sent away and they settled in the desert of Paran.


G. Ishmael is further described in Gen. 21:20-21.

H. Ishmael had 12 sons.

I. He had at least one daughter and she became the third wife of Jacob’s brother, Esau.

J. He came back to Canaan to help bury his father Abraham.

K. Many Arabs consider Ishmael to be the ancestor of Mohammed through his son Kedar.

L. Mohammed referred to Ishmael as a great prophet who was able to perform miracles.

M. The Quran makes mention of Ishmael.

N. Ishmael died at the age of 137.

O. The Apostle Paul used him and his brother to illustrate the two covenants in the Bible—Law and Grace—Gal. 4:21-24a.

II. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN FROM ISHMAEL?

A. Negative lessons from Ishmael.

1. Family contention has consequences

   a. First there was Hagar’s contention with Sara—Gen. 16:4.

   b. Next, there was Ishmael’s contention with Isaac—Gen. 21:14a.
2. We reap what we sow—Gen. 16:12.


B. Positive lessons from Ishmael.

1. God hears us when we call out to him—Gen. 21:17.

2. God helps us when we have needs—Gen. 21:19; Phil 4:19.