### LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1. 06 Sept .................................................. Genesis 01
2. 13 Sept .................................................. Genesis 02
3. 20 Sept .................................................. Genesis 03-05
4. 27 Sept .................................................. Genesis 06-07
5. 04 Oct .................................................. Genesis 08-10
6. 11 Oct .................................................. Genesis 11
7. 18 Oct .................................................. Genesis 12-14
8. 25 Oct .................................................. Genesis 15-16
9. 01 Nov .................................................. Genesis 17
10. 08 Nov ............................................... Genesis 18-20
11. 15 Nov ............................................... Genesis 21
12. 22 Nov ............................................... Genesis 22-23
13. 29 Nov ............................................... Genesis 24

### INTRODUCTION

- Isaac is born and Ishmael is tossed out.
- Abraham got himself in trouble when he first listened to his wife; Now God tells him to take his wife’s advice this time and kick the other woman, Hagar, out with her son, Ishmael.

### Passage

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| Genesis 21:1-11 | Hagar and Ishmael are forced out:  
    - This is the beginning of the fulfillment of the 2nd part of the covenant with Abraham - that concerning the seed  
    - Abraham was now a hundred years old, so the birth of Isaac was about thirty years after the call  
    - How long would we be willing to faithfully wait for God to answer a prayer?  
    - How long have you waited for answered prayers?  
    - v.1. "And the LORD visited Sarah" – The birth of every child is rightly deemed the effect of a divine visitation ("The fruit of the womb is the gift of God" - Ps 127:3)  
    - BUT Isaac was special – He was born supernaturally as a result of a special promise to a mother who was well beyond the age to conceive and nurse a child  
    - vv1-8. Abraham, 100 years old, and Sarah, 90 years old, must raise a child for the next 20 years. How would you react to being pregnant and over 60 years old?  
    - vv9-11. Hagar’s son, Ishmael, was seen mocking little Isaac. This would’ve been very disturbing to Momma  
    - Recall that Isaac’s name meant “laugh’ter”; so Ishmael (16-18 yrs old) was probably mercilessly teasing his little brother and making fun of his name  
    - Naturally, Mom told Abraham to dismiss/disinherbt Ishmael  
    - Naturally, Abraham was grieved over this, so there must’ve been some kind of Father/Son bond |

| Genesis 21:12-21 | Strange Behavior – Strange Promise – Strange Visitations:  
    - v12-13. God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah this time, for God will make great nations out of Isaac and Ishmael  
    - Why would God make a great nation out of someone who was prophesied to be uncontrollable – a “wild donkey”  
    - v14. Why did Abraham provide such meager provisions for Hagar’s departure? Or were they meager?  
    - vv15-16. Why did God listen to the lad’s cry but not Hagar’s?  
    - v17. God basically asked Hagar, “Why are you concerned?  
    - Sometimes we just need to consider all the godly circumstances in our lives to realize God is heavily involved in directing our footsteps  
    - vv18-21. Notice that God told Hagar to get up before He opened her eyes to see water – and God was with Ishmael |

### CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Blended families are more common these days than the typical traditional family. And statistics reflect that traditional “intact” families seem to have fewer delinquent children issues than all other types of modern families (see [http://www.familyfacts.org/briefs/26/marriage-and-family-as-detennins-from-delinquency-violence-and-crime/www.familyfacts.org](http://www.familyfacts.org/briefs/26/marriage-and-family-as-detennins-from-delinquency-violence-and-crime/www.familyfacts.org))
- And families having a father, step-father, or a grandfather involved with raising a family are more stable than those families without a father figure
- What can churches do to strengthen families and keep them “intact”?

### NEXT WEEK: Genesis 22-23. Why would God test his good disciples? To make them great.

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*"You know, if fathers just did what they're supposed to do, half of the junk that we face on the streets wouldn't exist." ~ Nathan Hayes*