

**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	Comments
<p><b>Genesis Dating Principles – How to Find a Wife</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Let God do it (<a href="#">Gen 2</a>) ..... Adam &amp; Eve</li> <li>2. Find your own (<a href="#">Gen 4:17</a>) ..... Cain finds his own wife</li> <li>3. Let your Mom do it (<a href="#">Gen 21:21</a>) ..... Hagar finds a wife for Ishmael</li> <li>4. Let your Dad do it (<a href="#">Gen 24</a>) ..... Dad's servant finds Rebekah for Isaac</li> </ol>	
21:22-34	<p><b>Good Traditions Gone Bad Can Kill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abimelech and Abraham's treaty and disagreement over a well seems awfully trivial for it to be recorded in Scripture</li> <li>• v33. The passage ends with Abraham planting a tree (or a grove of trees) for a place of quiet worship                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The significance of this passage shows up later when the Israelites would abuse this practice and worship false gods at tree groves ..... <a href="#">Deut 16:21</a></li> <li>♦ Israelites also worshiped Moses' bronze serpent which was once a powerful emblem of good.....<a href="#">2Kings 18:4</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What does it take to raise godly children?	<p><b>Godly Men Who Raised Godless Sons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King David's son, Absalom, tried to usurp David's rule</li> <li>• Eli's sons were godless and caused others to sin</li> <li>• Samuel's sons took bribes and perverted justice</li> </ul> <p><b>Godless Men Who Raised Godly Sons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wicked King Abijah raised godly King Asa</li> <li>• Wicked King Ahaz raised godly King Hezekiah</li> <li>• Wicked King Amon raised godly King Josiah</li> </ul>
<p><b>Was Abraham a good father to both Ishmael and Isaac?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We don't have enough info to assess Abraham's influence on his sons</li> <li>• BUT, God's hands were on both lads throughout their lives</li> <li>• Each son was solely responsible for their willful obedience to God, and therefore, accountable for their behavior</li> </ul>	

**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-deterrents-from-delinquency-violence-and-crime>[www.familyfacts.org](http://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.

Passage	Comments
Genesis 21:1-11	<p><b>Hagar and Ishmael are forced out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the beginning of the fulfillment of the 2nd part of the covenant with Abraham - that concerning the seed</li> <li>• Abraham was now a hundred years old, so the birth of Isaac was about thirty years after the call                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How long would we be willing to faithfully wait for God to answer a prayer?</li> <li>♦ How long have you waited for answered prayers?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v1. "And the LORD visited Sarah" –The birth of every child is rightly deemed the effect of a divine visitation ('<i>The fruit of the womb is the gift of God</i>' - Ps 127:3)                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 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</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• vv9-11. Hagar's son, Ishmael, was seen mocking little Isaac. This would've been very disturbing to Momma                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall that Isaac's name meant "laughter"; so Ishmael (16-18 yrs old) was probably mercilessly teasing his little brother and making fun of his name</li> <li>♦ Naturally, Mom told Abraham to dismiss/disinherit Ishmael</li> <li>♦ Naturally, Abraham was grieved over this, so there must've been some kind of Father/Son bond</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Why was Sarah so harsh to Ishmael – her son of the moment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We don't have all the details of Ishmael's behavior</li> <li>• Was his "mocking" harmless teasing that older brothers often give to their younger siblings?</li> <li>• Or was it more demonstrative of Ishmael's true behavior – of being obstinate, possibly cruel and belligerent?                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall, Ishmael would soon have a reputation that was prophesied of him of not being able to get along with anyone, even with his own kinfolk ..... <a href="#">Gen 16:12</a></li> <li>♦ Ishmael does exhibit fatherly &amp; brotherly love when he later hooks up with Isaac to bury their father ..... <a href="#">Gen 25:9</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
21:12-21	<p><b>Strange Behavior – Strange Promise – Strange Visitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv12-13. God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah this time, for God will make great nations out of Isaac and Ishmael                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why would God make a great nation out of someone who was prophesied to be uncontrollable – a "wild donkey"?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v14. Why did Abraham provide such meager provisions for Hagar's departure? Or were they meager?</li> <li>• vv15-16. Why did God listen to the lad's cry but not Hagar's?</li> <li>• v17. God basically asked Hagar, 'Why are you concerned?'                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Sometimes we just need to consider all the godly circumstances in our lives to realize God is heavily involved in directing our footsteps</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv18-21. Notice that God told Hagar to get up before He opened her eyes to see water – and God was with Ishmael</li> </ul>

