

Failure & Faithfulness in Fatherhood (Genesis 21:1-21)

vv. 1-7: Birth of Isaac

- YHWH did for Sarah as He had _____ (1-2)
- Abraham _____ (3-4)
- Sarah _____ (6-7)

vv. 8-14: Abraham sends Ishmael away

- Sarah _____ Ishmael _____; _____
Abraham → _____
- But _____ consoled Abraham – command and _____
(Gen. 17:19-21)
- Abraham _____ – sent _____ and Ishmael away

vv. 15-21: Hagar, Ishmael, and _____ in the wilderness

- Hagar _____ Ishmael (in her grief) (15-16)
- But _____
 1. Heard _____ cry (17)
 2. Spoke to _____ (17-18)
 3. Opened _____ eyes (19) – provision of _____
 4. Was _____ (20-21)

Lessons / Application

1. God _____ His promises – He _____ up (1 Thess. 5:24)
Can I remember?
2. The _____ is God's idea – _____ His plan
Marriage (Eph. 5:22-23) and _____ (Gen. 18:19)
How will I deal with my mistakes?
3. Everything changed for _____ – from favored to _____
By his own _____
The spirit of _____ – manifest in _____
4. Fatherhood of _____ – He _____ Ishmael's cry
Will I _____ to my Heavenly Father?

Discussion Questions: Genesis 21:1-21

1. List five things that come to your mind when you think of God as your *Father*.

Are they good thoughts, comforting thoughts, difficult; or just *meh*?

What are some Scriptures that can shape our understanding of God as our *Father*?

2. What are some missteps you have taken at times when you recognized you had erred in fathering?

Discuss some steps you believe God would have us take when we recognize we have erred in our fathering?

3. What does it mean to *cry out to God*?

How would you explain to someone *how* to cry out to God?

Can you name other people in Scripture who cried out to God?

4. What is *one thing* you definitely want to take away with you from today's message?

How do you plan to *follow through* on that *one thing*?