

Birth of Isaac

Genesis 21:1-21

Bible Memory Verse

Genesis 21:1 NIV

...the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.

Bible Story

This story is very simple, yet extremely powerful. Abraham and Sarah had a son and they named him Isaac. While that may seem very normal and uneventful, let me fill you in on the back story.

Abraham and Sarah were around 100 years old and 90 years old, respectively. They were ancient according to child-bearing years! When Abraham learned that he was going to have a son in his old age from the Lord, he laughed. And when Sarah heard from the Lord that she was going to give birth to a son in her old age, she laughed. No wonder the son's name was Isaac, which means "he laughs!"

In addition, the Lord God, the God of heaven and earth, had spoken to Abraham and had promised him a son. This son would be the first in a long line of descendants that would rival the number of stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. The birth of Isaac meant that God had indeed been faithful to the promise He had made to Abraham.

"When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him" (Genesis 21:4). This was the sign of the covenant, or promise that God had made to Abraham. Just think, right before Abraham's eyes was the answer to the promise of God!

"Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, 'God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.' And she added, 'Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age'" (Genesis 21:5-7).

Thus begins another incredible adventure with another human being whom God chooses to carry “the blessing” to the entire world.

Life Application

God always keeps His promises. He is entirely faithful. God does not forget. Mankind, however, does not always keep its promises. And we are not entirely faithful. And we do forget a lot. Maybe that is the point of this story.

- Maybe we need to trust that God will indeed keep His promises to us and to stop doubting him.
- Or maybe we need to keep our promises, too. Perhaps God’s faithfulness needs to be a model for us to be faithful.
- Maybe also to know that when we do mess up, God is always there to forgive and help us move on.

Review Questions

1. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? Around 100 years-old.
2. How old was Sarah when Isaac was born? Around 90 years-old.
3. What does the name “Isaac” mean? He who laughs or laughter.
4. Why is the birth of Isaac so important? God’s promises are real. And Isaac is the continued heir of the “special people of God” and the blessing of and for the whole world.

Coloring Sheet

Next page



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