



**Series:** Genesis

**Passage:** Genesis 21:1-14

**Title:** The Faithfulness of God

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard, 10/09/2022

**Discussion Starter** – What did you learn about the faithfulness of God in this passage of scripture and in the Sunday message? How have you seen God’s faithfulness in your life?

### **God Fulfills the Promised Son** – (Genesis 21:1-7)

- We learned that 25 years have passed between God’s original promise to Abraham to have a child in chapter 12 and the fulfillment of this promise in chapter 21. Have you ever struggled in waiting and trusting in the promises of God to be fulfilled in your life? Read Isaiah 46:9-10. Describe in your own words how this passage of scripture should bring us comfort as Christians.
- As believers, what can we learn from this story concerning God’s promises and God’s timing? Can we judge the faithfulness of God by perceived outcomes and our circumstances? Explain.
- What pattern of waiting and faithfulness is established as we look at the lives of Abraham and Sarah? Why does God use “waiting” as a tool in our walk with Him?
- Compare Sarah’s “laughter” in verse 6 to her “laughter” in Genesis 18:12. What has changed in Sarah’s life? Have you had something happen in your life that seemed impossible and then later saw it come to pass by God’s providence? Describe the impact on your life and faith.
- What impact do you think Sarah’s testimony of God’s fulfilled promise had on those around her? Would you say it evident to the people around you that God is working in your life?
- Compare Sarah’s original response to God’s promise in Genesis chapter 18 to Abraham’s response. What do you think Sarah was missing out on by her not believing wholeheartedly at the time of God’s promise? As Christians what can we learn from this?

### **God’s Promises Are Received by Faith** – (Genesis 21:8-14)

- Now the stage is set, and the battle between the son of promise and the son of the bondwoman begins. Why do you think Ishmael, the son of Hagar, was “scoffing”? What spiritual truth in God’s word does this “scoffing” reveal to us? Read Galatians 4:22-26. What illustration is presented in this passage about the representation of the son of promise as compared to the son of the bondwoman?
- Why do you think God wanted Hagar and Ishmael to leave? Read Galatians 4:29-31. What is the spiritual representation to us as Christians of casting out the bondwoman?
- What can we learn from Abraham about by the way he responds to this difficult request from his wife and the confirmation from God to send his first son Ishmael and Hagar away?
- Although not specifically mentioned in the passage, Abraham probably took the displeasure with his wife’s request to cast out Ishmael and Hagar to the LORD in prayer. Why do you think this would have been important for Abraham to do at this time? How is this practice applicable for us in our lives today?