

Ishmael and Isaac

*(Based on Genesis 15-17, 18:9-15, 21:1-7,
Romans 4:16-21)*

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One day God came to Abram in a vision and said, "Don't be afraid. I am your shield and your super duper reward." "Look you haven't given me any kids," answered Abram. "When I die my servant Eliezer will get all my stuff."



"He won't be the one," answered God. "You will have a child. Count the stars if you are able. This is how many descendants you will have." Abram believed God.



Sarai had an idea for Abram. "Look the Lord has held me back from having children, so I want you to take my Egyptian slave girl Hagar as your wife number two and maybe I will have children by her."



Abram listened to Sarai and Hagar became pregnant. Hagar's attitude changed towards Sarai. She thought she was better than Sarai because she was pregnant. This made Sarai very cranky. Sarai treated Hagar harshly and Hagar ran away into the wilderness.



An angel found her by a spring of water and said, "Go back and obey Sarai. You will have a son. Call him Ishmael. He will be a wild man and he will want to fight against everyone and everyone will want to fight against him."



Hagar returned. Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.



When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram again and said, "Now your name is Abraham because I have made you a father of many nations. Call Sarai, Sarah because I will bless her and give her a son and she will be a mother of nations."



One day not long after, as Abraham was sitting in his tent in the hot part of the day, three men stood by him. It was the Lord. "Please come. Eat, drink and rest," begged Abraham.



Abraham and Sarah brought fresh bread, butter, milk and beef to the visitors. "Sarah your wife will have a son," said the Lord. Sarah was listening in the tent and she laughed.



The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time, I will come and Sarah will have a son." "I didn't laugh," lied Sarah. "No, but you did laugh," answered the Lord.



Sure enough one year later when Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old, she gave birth to a baby boy who they named Isaac. Isaac means "laughter". Abraham and Sarah were so happy!



Lord, help me to be patient while I wait for your timing in my life. Help me to know when I should do something to fix my problem or when I should let you work it out, Your Way.