**Birth of Isaac**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 21:1-21**

**Bible Story Number: 1010250**

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**Birth of Isaac**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God told Abram (Abraham) to leave his country and go to the place God would show him. Abram obeyed.

God made a profound promise to Abram (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 21:1-21**

This is what the Bible says.

God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah. She became pregnant, even though she was passed the age of having children.

Sarah had a son and they named him Isaac. When the child was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded. Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born.

Sarah remembered that she had laughed in disbelief when she heard that she was going to have a child in her old age. She said that everyone would laugh with her now. She also asked, “Who would have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children?” She marveled at the fact that she had given birth to a son at her age.

Isaac grew. Abraham had a great feast to celebrate the day he was weaned.

But Sarah saw Ishmael mocking the celebration. She knew that Hagar and the son she had by Abraham were still around. Sarah insisted that Abraham send them away. She did not want Ishmael to be a joint heir with Isaac.

Abraham loved both of his sons. It was difficult for him to send Ishmael away. But God spoke to Abraham and assured him that Ishmael and Hagar would be protected. God told Abraham to listen to Sarah and to do what she asked because the nation that God had promised would come through Isaac. God said he would also make a nation through Ishmael.

Abraham sent them away early the next morning. He gave them water and provisions before he sent them away.

Hagar and her son wandered in the Wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water ran out, she left the boy under a tree and went a short distance away because she could not bear to watch him die. She sat down and wept.

God heard the voice of the boy and sent an angel to Hagar. The angel told her not to be afraid. He said that God heard the voice of the boy. He instructed her to get up and go to the boy; God was going to make him a great nation.

Then God revealed to her a well of water nearby. She and the boy drank and filled their water skins.

Ishmael grew and became an archer. He settled in the Wilderness of Paran. His mother got a wife for him from Egypt. He became a great nation, just as God had promised.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What was the miracle in the birth of Isaac?
* What happened to Isaac when he was eight days old? Why was this important?
* Why did Sarah laugh?
* What did Abraham do the day Isaac was weaned?
* What request did Sarah ask of Abraham?
* Why was Abraham conflicted by her request?
* What instructions and promise did God give Abraham concerning Ishmael and Hagar?
* What happened to Ishmael?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.