

THE BIRTH OF ISHMAEL

Old Testament Lesson #11

Abram and Sarai (SA-ri) had lived for 10 years in the land of Canaan, and they still had no children. God had promised that Abram would have children, more than the stars of heaven or the dust of the earth, so Sarai thought maybe Abram could have a family through her maid. She offered her Egyptian maidservant named Hagar (HA-gar) to Abram. Abram agreed to Sarai's plan for him to take Hagar as a wife. Soon Hagar became pregnant.

As soon as Hagar knew she was pregnant, she scorned Sarai, and Sarai was miserable. Abram told Sarai that since Hagar was her servant, Sarai should do whatever she wanted with her. Sarai treated Hagar badly, and Hagar ran away to the desert.

An angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring on the road that leads to Shur. The angel asked her what she was doing, and she explained she was running away from Sarai. The angel told her to go back to Sarai and submit to her. The angel promised that God would multiply her descendants so that there would be too many to count. Her child would be a son whom she should name "Ishmael (ISH-ma-el)." The angel explained that the child would be "a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Hagar called the LORD, "You are the God who sees me."

Hagar did as the angel said. In time, she gave birth to Ishmael. Abram was 86 years old when this happened.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Abram was 75 when he left Haran (Genesis 12:4) and was promised a son from his own body (Genesis 13:14-16; 15:4-6). Ishmael was born when Abram was 86 (Genesis 16:16).
- In Galatians 4:21-31, the apostle Paul uses the story of Hagar as an allegory, where Hagar represents the old covenant.
- "Ishmael" means "God hears."
- Many people regard the Arabs as the descendants of Ishmael. Mohammed, the founder of Islam, claimed descent from Ishmael.
- The prediction that Hagar's child would be "a wild donkey of a man" possibly referred to the proud spirit he would possess.

The Birth of Ishmael

- I. Abram and Sarai continued to wait for children to be born.
 - A. They remembered God's promise.
 - B. Sarai decided her maidservant should bear Abram's child.
 - C. Abram agreed to the idea.
- II. Hagar became pregnant with Abram's baby.
 - A. Sarai and Hagar began to despise each other.
 - B. Sarai complained to Abram, and he told Sarai to do what she wanted.
 - C. Sarai treated Hagar badly, so Hagar ran away.
- III. The Lord's angel found Hagar.
 - A. The angel asked what Hagar was doing.
 - B. Hagar explained the circumstances.
 - C. The angel told Hagar to return to Sarai and submit to her.
 - D. The angel prophesied that the unborn baby would be a son who should be named Ishmael.
 - E. Ishmael would have a difficult life and live in hostility.

ANSWER KEY:

thought, family, maid, agreed, going, to, have, baby, ignore, very, unhappy, do, what, wanted, servant, treated, badly, ran, away, desert

Ishmael, wild, donkey, man, hand, against, everyone, everyone's, him, live, hostility, toward, brothers





After 10 years in Canaan, Abram and Sarai still had no children. Sarai had an idea.

Use the code to finish the story.

CODE		
A= ✂	J= ⬤	S= *
B= 🍷	K= ☆	T= *
C= ✨	L= ➡	U= *
D= ⑦	M= ☆	V= *
E= ✨	N= ☆	W= *
F= ✦	O= ☆	X= ✨
G= ✧	P= ☆	Y= *
H= ☆	Q= *	Z= *
I= ☆	R= *	

Sarai _____ that Abram could have a _____
 through her _____, Hagar. He _____. When Hagar
 found that she was _____ a _____,
 she began to _____ Sarai. Sarai was _____
 _____. Abram told Sarai that she should _____
 _____ she _____ with her _____,
 Hagar. So Sarai _____ her _____, and Hagar
 _____ to the _____.

An angel of the Lord found Hagar in the desert. He told her to return and obey Sarai. The angel told Hagar she would have a son and call him

_____ s _____.

He would be a “_____ d _____”

of a _____; his _____ will be

_____ t _____

and _____’ _____ hand against

_____ i _____, and he will _____ in

_____ t _____

all his _____ h _____.” - Genesis 16:12

Find the words below and write them into the story.

They are up, down, diagonal and backward.

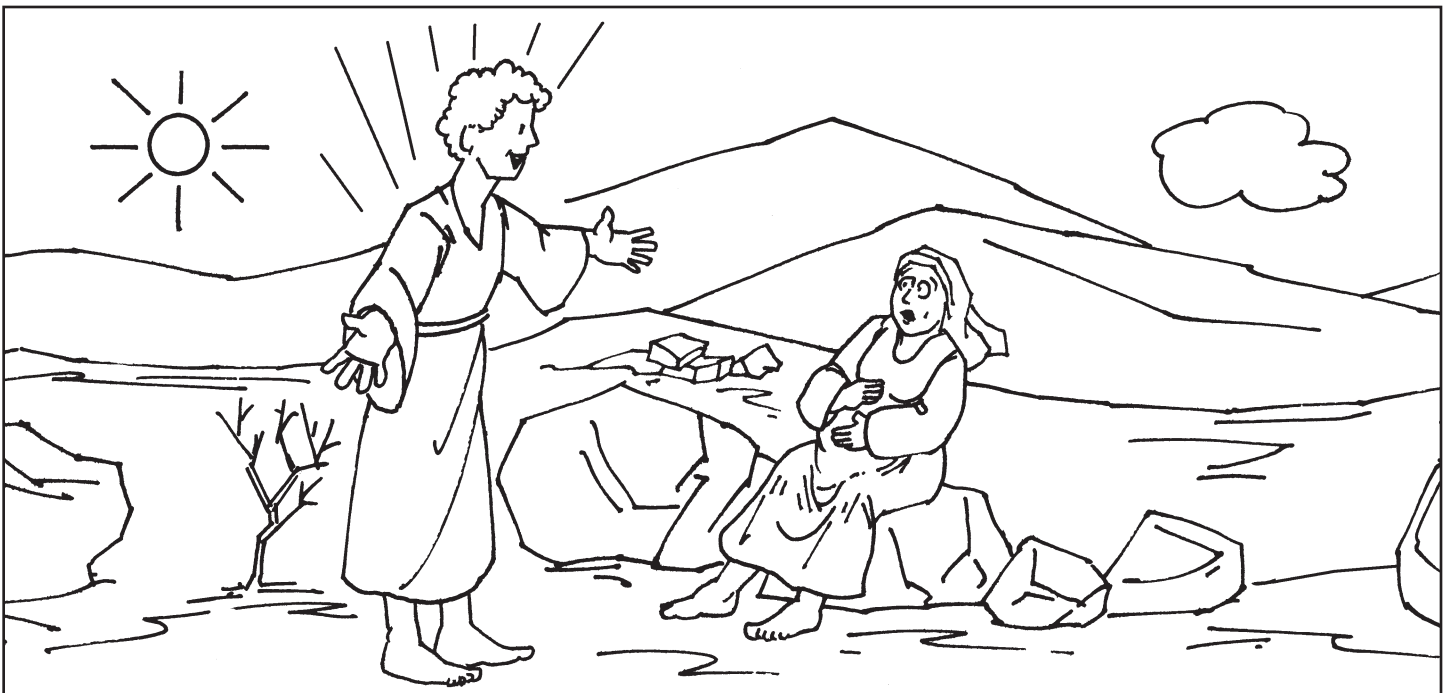
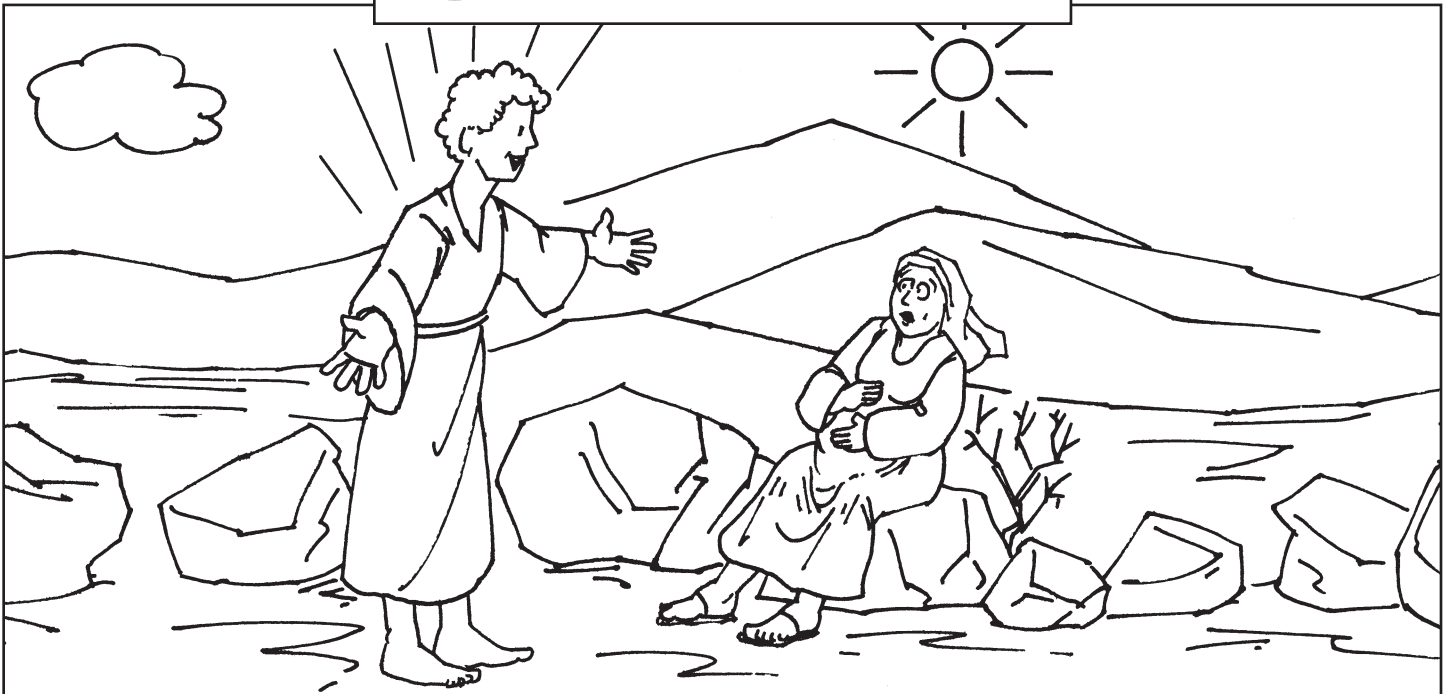
man hand everyones toward
 Ishmael brothers live donkey
 wild everyone against
 hostility him

Y B R O T H E R S M M M E N N
 K E E W I O L W K I A W V I N
 Q A K W B M W N O H N M I H D
 R U F N X D M A W M H E L E K
 W I L D O C W N R A F H Y E T
 D O A S E D Q E X D N Z T A N
 E N G D N V L E B H K A I Z W
 A Z A M O E E D R S A G L M A
 M F I H Y Q A S W S D E I F Y
 G A N X R O M Y T E N H T D C
 G E S I E G H K Q Z W O S V M
 B G T Z V B S R O L S Z O V R
 E Z I V E H I Q U C L Y H R N
 A B F E V E R Y O N E S W U Z

Name _____

An angel told Hagar not to run away from her troubles.
She and her baby would be protected.

Circle 5 differences in the picture below.



Name _____