

LESSON 23

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16:1-6

WELCOME

A Time for **Assembly**

Introduction to gather together through an ice breaker (10 minutes)

To start: Share briefly the meaning or background of your name.

WORSHIP

A Time for **Adoration**

Inspiration to worship God through invocation, thanksgiving, and reading of Scripture (25 minutes)

Suggested Songs:

Standing on the Promises, by Russell Carter (page 59)

For the Lord is Good, by Billy Carter (page 53)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 16:1-16

WORD

A Time for **Admonition**

Instruction to communicate one's investigation of the story (content), interpretation based on the setting (context), and integration of the two for the spiritual truth (concept) (50 minutes)

1. What have Abram and Sarai failed to do that resulted in Hagar's fleeing (16:1-6)?
2. Why do you think Abram easily agreed to Sarai's proposal for him to have a son through her personal servant, Hagar (16:1-2)?
3. What was fundamentally wrong about Sarai's plan to have a surrogate child? Compare this situation with that in Genesis 3:17.
4. In the case of Abram, Sarai and Hagar, how were their relationships affected by the couple's attempt to help fulfill the promise of God (16:4-6)?
5. What were the blessings that Hagar and her son will receive if Hagar followed the instruction (16:11,15)?

6. How is God named by Hagar in v. 13?
7. What does Ishmael's name mean and represent?

WALK

A Time for **Accountability**

Invitation to apply the implication of the Scripture (connect), implementation of a specific action (conduct), and intercession for the saints/seekers (concern) (about 35 minutes)

1. How does the example of Abram and Sarai in this story encourage you to develop patience and faith in God's promises?
2. What acts of kindness and compassion would you plan to do to single parents and fatherless children?
3. Have you ever tried to "help God out" when you thought he couldn't, or wouldn't, help you in the way you wanted? What was the result?
4. How can the group pray for you? Share now your personal needs or concerns with your accountability and prayer partners. These may include attitudes that need to be changed and/or specific actions to be done in obedience to God's Word. As you intercede for each other, pray also for others outside the group who need to know Jesus.