

Genesis 21: “A Tale of Two Mothers”

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1. God still blesses those who make mistakes. (1-7)

- Abraham and Sarah made lots of mistakes - like us!
- God is gracious - more than we deserve!
- God keeps His promises - at the right time!
- God gives us all our own Isaac's - our reasons for joy!

⇒ In my life, my Isaac is: _____

2. Our past mistakes can cause present distress! (8-16)

- God can bring good even out of our mistakes. (17-21)
- If our “Isaac's” represent reliance on God's grace, then our “Ishmael's” represent self-reliance.
- Ishmael = “I don't need God in my life.”
= “I can do things without God's help.”
= “I'm good enough to get to heaven.”

⇒ Ishmael must go! My area of self-reliance is: _____
_____.

3. How to deal with past mistakes:

- Admit them and ask for forgiveness.
- Try to find the lessons hidden in them.
- Trust God to bless in spite of them.
- Don't keep making the same mistakes.
- Ishmael must go!