

Do you know what a "wife" is? Your mama is married to your daddy and she is his wife isn't she? A man has just one wife now, but this wasn't always true, sometimes a man would marry two or even three women so they could have lots of children. Abraham had two wives. One was named Sarah and she was his first wife, but she couldn't have any little babies, so finally Abraham married another wife named Hagar. Hagar had a baby boy named Ishmael.

In this story, Ishmael was 13 years old. Abraham loved his son Ishmael but God told Abraham that he would have another son. A very special son who would receive all of God's promises. Now Sarah was too old to have a baby, but God said this special son would be Sarah's baby.

Do you think God could fix it so Sarah could have a baby when she was so old? Yes, God can fix anything, can't he?

At first Abraham and Sarah laughed to think Sarah would have a baby, but if God promises something, it WILL come to pass. In about a year, Sarah had this special, promised little boy!



The new little baby boy was named Isaac. Isaac means "laughing" and this special baby boy gave Abraham and Sarah lots of laughter and happiness. Abraham's other son, Ishmael was a teenager now and he wasn't happy. This new baby was getting all the attention and seemed more important than Ishmael. Ishmael didn't like this.

Do you have a new little baby brother or sister? If you have a new baby in your family, do you like this new baby? Sometimes new babies are so much fun! You get to hold them and kiss them and give them toys to play with and help take care of them, can't you? I bet you love your sisters or brothers, don't you?

Sometimes we can get a little mad at baby brothers or sisters too, can't we? But God wants us to love our sisters and brothers and take care of them. Ishmael didn't love his little brother Isaac very much; he was often mad at baby Isaac and wanted him to go away!



When little Isaac was old enough to eat regular food, Abraham and Sarah had a big party and invited all their friends. This was called a "feast" and there was music and dancing and lots and lots of good food. Everyone was happy for Abraham and Sarah because they had such a laughing, happy baby. Only one person wasn't happy...this was Ishmael.

Ishmael was jealous of baby Isaac and he wanted all the attention. Ishmael began to tease Isaac in a mean and hurtful way. Sarah saw the way Ishmael was treating her little baby and she angrily went to Abraham. "You must tell Hagar and Ishmael to leave. Ishmael can't stay here with us when he is mean to our baby!" Sarah said. This made Abraham very sad, for he loved Ishmael too. What should he do?

What do you do when you have a problem? Do you pray to God about the problem? We can't see God but we know he can see us and hear us. When we are very upset or worried and don't know what to do, we can go to God and pray for help. God will hear us and He will answer our prayers!



Abraham didn't know what to do about Ishmael so that night Abraham prayed to God. God told Abraham that he shouldn't be sad. Abraham should listen to Sarah and send Hagar and Ishmael away for Isaac was the son that God had promised them and he was the one who would receive God's promises. However God told Abraham that he would take care of Ishmael as well as Isaac. Ishmael would grow to be a strong hunter and he would have many children....but the promises belonged to Isaac.

The next morning Abraham gave Hagar some water and food and told her to take Ishmael and leave. Hagar didn't go to a nearby town but she headed into the desert country and began to wander around. The sun grew very hot and soon they ran out of water.

Ishmael became very weak and thirsty and very tired. Hagar laid Ishmael down in the shade of a bush and both Hagar and Ishmael began to cry.



God heard Ishmael's cries and an angel called to Hagar, "Hagar, Hagar, what is the matter? God has heard Ishmael's cries and he will take care of you. Ishmael will live and have children and they will grow into a strong nation. Don't be afraid, take Ishmael by the hand and lift him up."

Hagar did as the angel had said and when she turned around she saw a spring of water close by. Hagar and Ishmael ran to the water. My how good that tasted! After they had filled their water bottles, Hagar and Ishmael continued on their journey. When Ishmael became a man he married a young woman and they made their home in the desert. He had a large family of children and grandchildren and great grandchildren... but Ishmael never learned to like his brother Isaac nor Isaac's family. The people that came from Ishmael's family are called Arabs today and many of them still want to fight with Isaac's family, who are called Jews of Israel. This is sad. We should always try to get along with our brothers and sisters and show them love, shouldn't we?

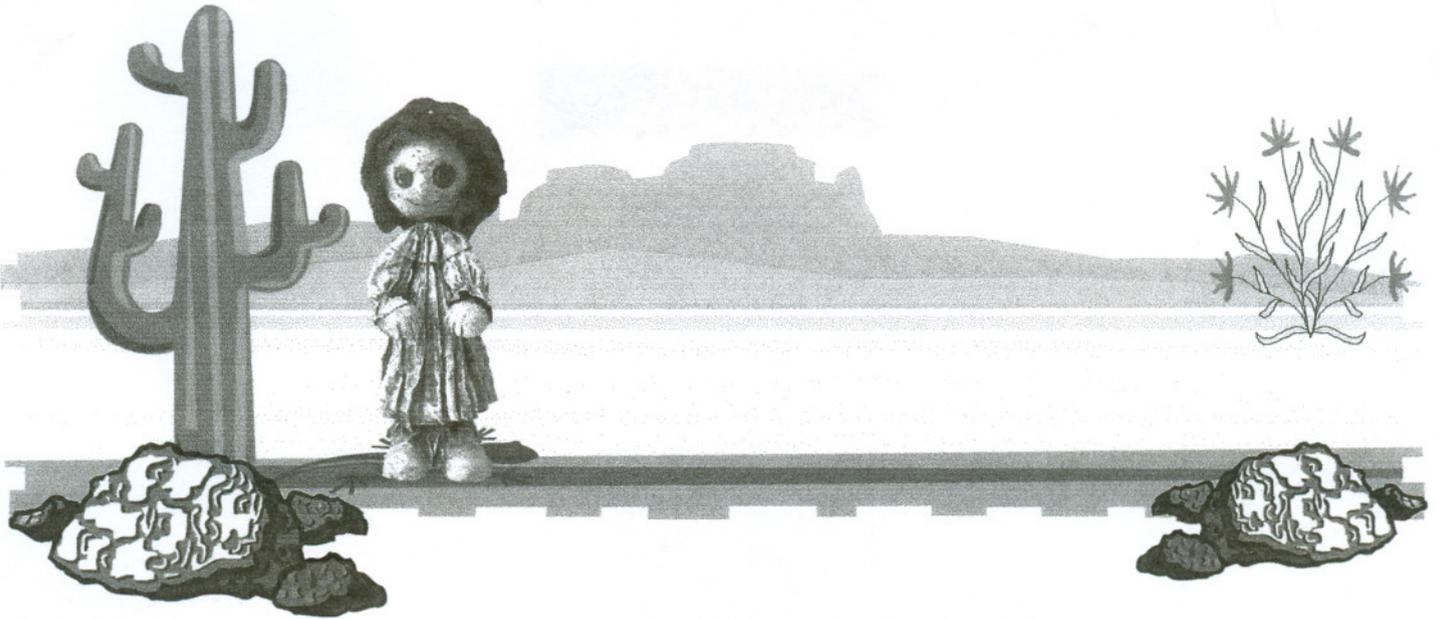


Question Page

1. Did Abraham have one wife or two wives? Do you remember their names?
2. Was a feast day a time to sing and dance and have lots of food or a time to read books?
3. Were Abraham and Sarah young or old when they had a baby boy?
4. How old was Ishmael when he got a new baby brother?
5. What was the name of Abraham and Sarah's baby boy?
6. Was Ishmael good to baby Isaac or mean to baby Isaac?
7. Do you have a brother or sister? If so, do you help take care of them and love them?
8. What did Abraham do when he was worried about Ishmael?
9. Can we pray to God when we don't know what to do? Will God hear us?
10. Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael something to take on their trip, what was it?
11. When Hagar ran out of water what did she and Ishmael do?
12. How did God help Hagar and Ishmael when they were so thirsty?

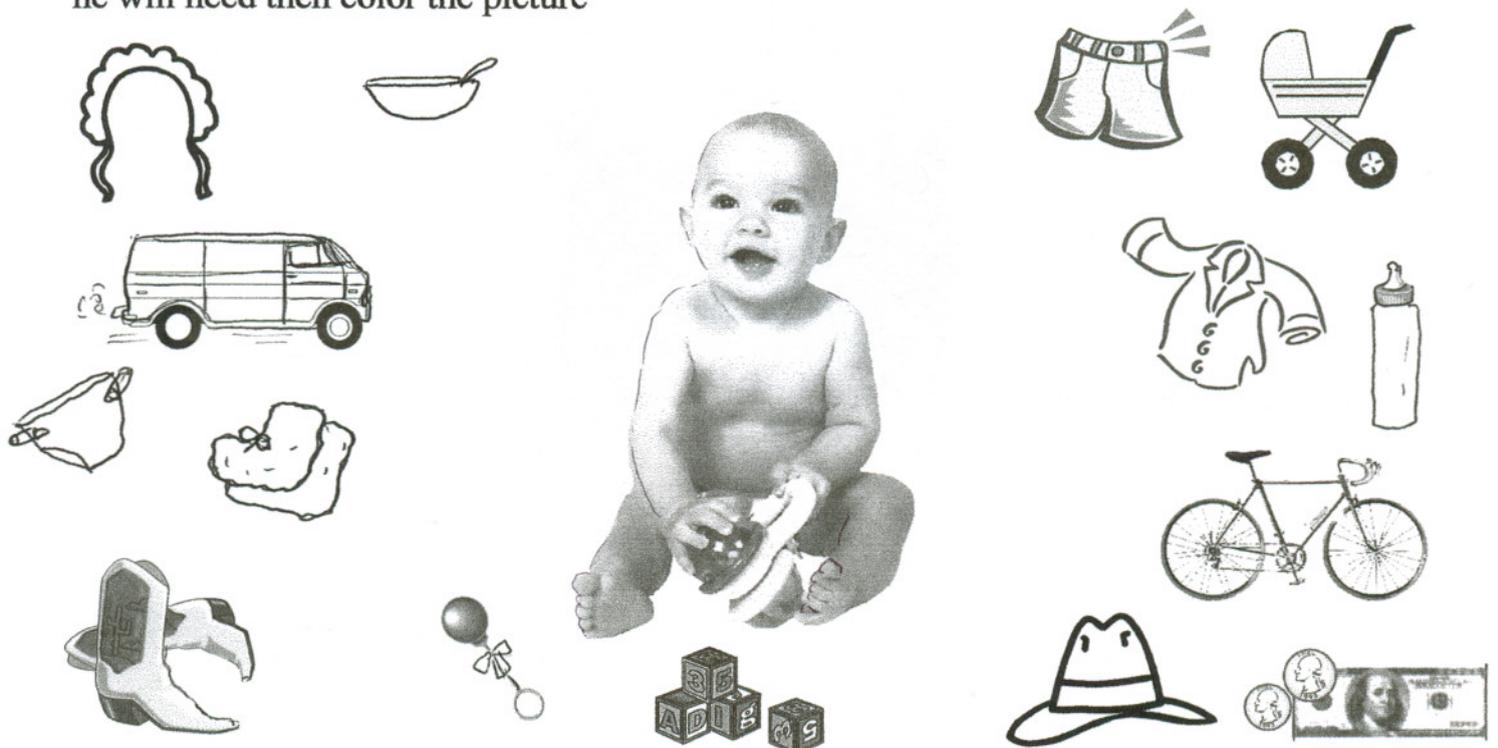
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Here is a picture of Hagar in the desert. Draw Ishmael laying under the bush and draw a pool of water by the rocks. then color the picture



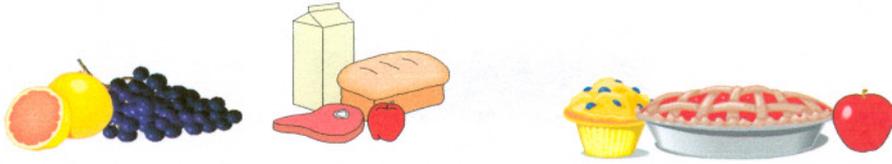
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Baby Isaac needs some things to wear and use when he goes to the feast. Circle some things he will need then color the picture



11

Here is some food for Abraham's and Sarah's feast. Can you draw some more food for them to eat and draw a table under the food, so the ants won't eat it all up?



11

How should we care for others? Circle the pictures that show what we should be like and put X's over the ones that we shouldn't be like

