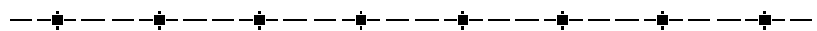


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

# Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

A Family Faces Jealousy

Isaac and Ishmael

Genesis 21:8-20

A Family Faces Jealousy

Genesis 21:8-14

**Memory Verse:**

Don't fight with each other.  
Don't be jealous of anyone.  
**Romans 13:13 NIV**

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Ishmael and Isaac were brothers.
2. Understand that Ishmael was jealous.
3. Understand that jealousy can have serious consequences.
4. Understand that God wants us to let Him lead us.

Last week, we learned about how God kept His promise to Abraham. God was faithful to His promise. He gave Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age.

**Read the Bible**

**READ: Genesis 21:8-14 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

**Begin with Prayer**

Today we will look at the relationship between two brothers. We will learn that jealousy can have serious consequences. You may remember that Abraham had a son named Ishmael. Ishmael's mother was Hagar. (Genesis 16:15) Hagar was an Egyptian slave. (Genesis 16:1) *[Teacher: You may want to explain to the children that this was a cultural practice which was not a part of God's plan.]* There was conflict between Sarah and Hagar. (Genesis 16:4) Conflict means that there were problems or disagreement. Ishmael was 13 years old when Sarah found that she was having a baby. When Isaac was born, Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old. (Genesis 17:15-20) Have you ever had a new baby in your family? How did you feel? Were you excited? Ishmael was 14 years old when Isaac was born. (Genesis 16:16) . Ishmael was probably not happy that Isaac was born. He had been his father's son until Isaac came along. Things probably changed when Isaac was born. Ishmael had to share his father's attention with a baby. Having a new baby may not always be easy. When Isaac was about four years old, Abraham had a very special party for Isaac. (Genesis 21:8) Ishmael probably never had a party like this one. But they were having a special dinner for Isaac. Ishmael was jealous. Watching his baby brother get all that attention was not easy. Having brothers and sisters can be hard. The Bible tells us how to behave. "Don't fight with each other. Don't be jealous of anyone." (Romans 13:13 NIV)

While they were at the party, Sarah saw Ishmael making fun of Isaac. He wanted what Isaac had. His reaction was to be mean and make fun of his baby brother. Has anyone every made fun of you? What did you do? What do you think God wants us to do? The Bible says, He wants us to spend time with Him so that we can have a good attitude. He wants us to "march in step" with His Spirit. (Galatians 5:25) You may remember that we learned about this verse a few weeks ago.

### Isaac and Ishmael Bible Facts

1. Isaac was the son that God promised.
2. Isaac was Sarah's son.
3. Ishmael was Hagar's son, and he was jealous.
4. Sarah saw Ishmael mistreating Isaac.

Ishmael's actions made Sarah very upset. (Genesis 21:6-9) If you have ever seen a mother trying to protect her children you know that they can become very angry. Sarah had wanted a child for a long time. Isaac would probably be her only child, so that made him more special. Sarah was so upset that she told Abraham that she wanted Hagar and Ishmael to go away. She did not want Ishmael to share in Isaac's inheritance. (Genesis 21:10) Inheritance is the property or things left to a person when someone dies. Sarah was probably afraid that Ishmael would take advantage of Isaac, and somehow Isaac would lose his inheritance.

Abraham was very upset that Ishmael had misbehaved. It made him very sad. Ishmael was Abraham's son, too. He did not want his son to misbehave. Ishmael had been his only son for 14 years. They had probably had many father-son talks. Abraham had probably taught Ishmael many things, including how to behave. But Sarah was his wife, and he could not ignore her fears. After talking to God about the situation, Abraham did what God said. God told Abraham that Isaac would be his heir, not Ishmael. It was probably not easy for Abraham to hear everything God had to say. God told him that Isaac was the son He had promised. God had promised to make Ishmael into a nation. God told Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. He was probably heartbroken when he sent Hagar and Ishmael away, but Abraham obeyed God. (Genesis 21:11-14)

Jealousy can cause problems in a family. It caused serious consequences for Ishmael. God does not want us to be jealous and want what others have. God sent Jesus to show us how to live. God wants us to be happy with those who are happy. (Romans 12:15) God wants us to be kind to each other and to forgive each other. (Ephesians 4:32) We can pray and ask God to help us. He will help us know how to behave. God will help us to obey Him.

#### Review questions.

1. **Who was Ishmael?** (The son of Abraham and Hagar.)
2. **Who was Isaac?** (The son of Abraham and Sarah.)
3. **What did God say about Isaac?** (Isaac was the son that God promised Abraham.)
4. **What was Ishmael's attitude towards Isaac?** (Ishmael was jealous.)
5. **What did Sarah see?** (She saw Ishmael being mean to Isaac.)

**Do you know Jesus?** We can follow Jesus' example. He does not want us to be jealous. He wants to help us live for Him. To do that, we have to know Him. We must ask God to forgive our sins and invite Him to come and be a part of our lives. When we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then we are saved. (Romans 10:9-10) When that happens, we can know Him. He will help us live for Him.

#### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know how to live.
3. Ask God to help you have right attitudes and good feelings about others.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may feel jealousy.

#### Application

Isaac was the son that God promised Abraham. Ishmael and Isaac were brothers. Sometimes in families, people have trouble getting along. In the Bible, God gave us instructions which help us know how to treat each other. (1 Corinthians 13, Romans 12:9-21) Ishmael was jealous. Because of his jealousy, he chose to behave in a way which hurt many people. The consequences were serious. God wants us to "march in step with His Spirit." (Galatians 5:25) When we do that we will have right attitudes and right feelings about others.

#### Planning for the next week:

Isaac and Rebekah (A Son Finds Comfort) — Genesis 24

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Genesis 21:8-14** (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Have the children draw pictures of their families. Ask them to tell you about their pictures. Hang the pictures for everyone to see.)

**Sing:** “Look All the World Over, There’s No One Like Me,” or another song related to the story.

When Isaac was born, Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old. (Genesis 17:15-20) Have you ever had a new baby in your family? How did you feel? Were you excited? Ishmael was 14 years old when Isaac was born. (Genesis 16:16)

Ishmael might have been happy that Isaac was born, but he had been his father’s son until Isaac came along. Things probably changed when Isaac was born. Ishmael had to share his father’s attention with a baby. Ishmael was probably jealous because he had to share his father’s attention with a baby. He probably did not want to do that. Do you have to share your mommy? Your daddy? Your brother? Your sister? Do you like it? What do you think God wants you to do? (Wait for responses.)

Having brothers and sisters can be hard. The Bible tells us how to behave. “Don’t fight with each other. Don’t be jealous of anyone.” (Romans 13:13 NIV)

God made each of us special. God loved us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to us. Jesus came so that we can live with Him in heaven forever.

## Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can live in heaven forever.
3. Ask God to help you to share.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers may feel stress if there is change; like a new baby. Consider this: Play a game. Call it, “I am important.” Give each child something to do. When they have completed their task, give each child a sticker that says, “God Made Me Special.” Find a way to focus on each child even for a few seconds. Give them your undivided attention for those few seconds. Whisper to them, “God made you special.” Sing, “Look All the World Over, There’s No One Like Me,” or another appropriate song.

## Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— Use construction paper to cut out paper dolls. Write one word of the verse on each doll. Allow everyone to make the paper dolls. Have them practice the verse.
- **Test your memory**— Have the children draw pictures of the story. Use a newspaper cartoon format. Perhaps you can prepare one ahead of time. Ask them to retell the story.
- **Taste activity**— Bring snacks that are packaged in twos. Have them find a partner. Tell them the package contains enough for two people. Have the children share.
- **Think about it** — Tell the children about your family. If you have siblings, tell about them. Talk about sharing your parents, your brothers, your grandparents. Allow the children to draw a picture about a difficult time sharing someone. Ask them to tell you about it.
- **Touch activity**— Cut out pictures of families from magazines. Create a poster.

Cut out pictures of family members and put them on popsicle sticks. Allow the children to tell about their families.

- **Run and play**— Have the children play a game. They must all have a reason for loving their family. If they have siblings, ask them to tell why they love their brother or sister. After everyone has given a reason, put them in groups and have them run races in pairs.
- **Listen**— Remind the children of the Bible verse. As they take time for silence before God, encourage them to ask for God’s help in loving their family.
- **Sing**— Sing “The Family of God,” or a song related to the story.

## Memory Verse

Don't fight  
with each other.  
Don't be jealous  
of anyone.

ROMANS 13:13

NIRV

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Have a  
good  
attitude.

## Word Puzzle

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

ISHMAEL

ISAAC

JEALOUS

BEHAVE

SHARE

INHERITANCE

OBEYED

BROTHER

SARAH



# Word Puzzle

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

ISHMAEL

ISAAC

JEALOUS

BEHAVE

SHARE

INHERITANCE

OBEYED

BROTHER

SARAH

## Anagram

1. selauoj-

2. acsia-

3. eaimlsh-

4. rshaa-

5. tcclfnoi-

6. dfraai-

7. nkrbtrheeao-

8. yodbee-

## Anagram

1. selauoj- jealous

2. acsia- Isaac

3. eaimlsh- Ishmael

4. rshaa- Sarah

5. tcclfnoi- conflict

6. dfraai- afraid

7. nkrbtrheeao- heartbroken

8. yodbee- obeyed