

Genesis 16

Abraham and Sarah were very sad. They didn't have any children! No little boys to run and play with, no little girls to dance and pick flowers with. One day Abraham decided to pray to God for a little boy or girl. God told Abraham that one day he and Sarah would have a son and a grandson and lots of great grandchildren. This sounded wonderful to Abraham and Sarah. But they waited for a long time...year after year, and still they didn't have any little baby.

Sarah got to thinking, maybe it was her fault that she didn't have any babies. Maybe Abraham should have another wife and she would have a baby. "I'm tired of waiting," Sarah said to Abraham. "I'm tired of waiting too," Abraham replied. "But God promised we would have a son, so we must believe God."

"Well, I have an idea," said Sarah. "I have a servant girl named Hagar. If you marry her, and she has a baby, it will be almost like I'm having the baby. We can all three raise the little boy."



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Do you think God would be happy with this idea? No, if God makes a promise, He will keep it, won't He? God didn't want Abraham to have another wife. God wanted them to wait until the time was just right. Sometimes we think we need to fix things but God will fix things for us if we pray to Him and believe in Him. Abraham and Sarah should have believed God and waited for Him to give them the promised son.

However, they didn't wait. One day Sarah gave her maid Hagar to Abraham for his wife and Abraham agreed. Hagar thought she was very important now, for she was going to have Abraham's baby when Sarah couldn't. Maybe Hagar laughed at Sarah and said "Ha Ha, I don't have to do any work for you because I'm more important than you are, now!"

This made Sarah mad and she told Abraham to send Hagar away.

Do you like it when people quarrel and fight? It makes everyone feel bad when there is arguing and loud words, doesn't it? We should always try to be kind to each other and say kind things, for this pleases God and makes everyone happy.



One day when there was some loud, angry words, Hagar decided to run away. She packed a few things in a sack and ran away when no one was looking. She ran into the desert where there wasn't any water and no shade trees. It got very hot and she got very thirsty. Finally Hagar found a little spring of water and she sat down and began to cry. Where could she go? What could she do?

Do you know who heard her? God heard her and he sent an angel to help Hagar. Now angels often look like regular people. Sometimes we see pictures of little babies with bows and arrows and wings, and we think this is what angels look like, but that isn't true. This angel looked like a regular man. "Hagar, where are you going?" the angel asked. "I'm running



away from Sarah," she replied. The angel smiled kindly and said "You must return to Sarah and mind what she says. You are going to have a baby boy and he will be strong and a great hunter when he grows up. You are to name him Ishmael.

Now Hagar was happy, she wiped her eyes and got up and went back to Sarah. Not long after this, Hagar had her baby and she named him Ishmael, just like the angel told her.

Little Ishmael grew into a strong boy and learned to hunt with bow and arrow. He was probably a little quarrelsome and angry at times as he would learn this from his mother. But Abraham was very happy with his son. However, one night God talked to Abraham and told him Ishmael was not the promised son. God said Sarah would have a baby and HE would be the promised son, not the son of Hagar. Abraham was very happy to hear that he and Sarah would have a baby, but Abraham also wondered how this could be? Abraham had grown old now and so had Sarah. How could old people have babies? This seemed very hard to Abraham but still, Abraham believed God would keep His word.



Do you think God can do things that are very hard? Is there anything God can't do? No, there's nothing God can't do, for God made everything, didn't He? God is very powerful and if He says an old man and an old woman will have a baby boy, then they will! Ishmael would be taken care of and grow up to be a hunter living in the desert but Sarah's son would live in the promised land. Her baby would be named Isaac.

Question Page

1. Why were Sarah and Abraham sad?
2. What did God promise Sarah and Abraham they would have one day?
a baby? a puppy? a new house?
3. Why did Sarah want Abraham to marry her servant, Hagar?
4. Were Sarah and Hagar happy or did they sometimes quarrel and fight?
5. When Hagar ran away who did she see?
6. What did the angel tell Hagar?
7. Do angels look like pink babies with wings?
8. Did Hagar have a boy or a girl?
9. What did Hagar name her baby?
10. Was Ishmael the boy that God had promised Abraham and Sarah or would Sarah have a baby too?
11. What kind of job would Ishmael grow up to do?
be a carpenter?, be a great hunter?, be a farmer?

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Was Abraham and Sarah promised a boy or a girl? Color the baby God promised them.

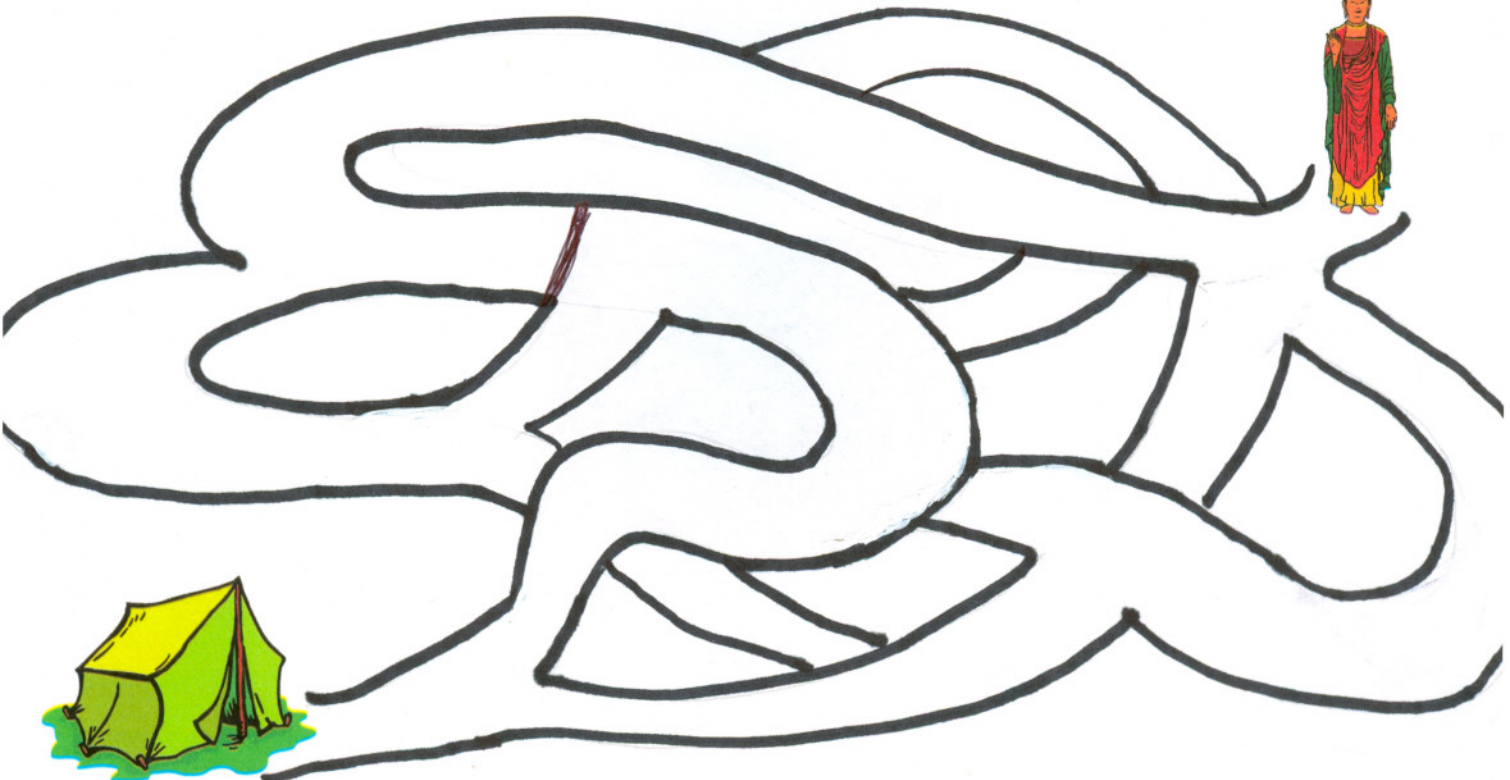
GIRL**BOY**

DRAW SOME MORE TOYS FOR THEM TO PLAY WITH

Circle the pictures that show how God wants us to be - kind and loving or angry and fighting



Help Hagar find her way back to Sarah's tent by following the right path





Little Ishmael is dreaming of hunting. Can you draw some weapons in the clouds for him to go hunting with?