

# Church at Home for Abridge

21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

## Activities for the whole family

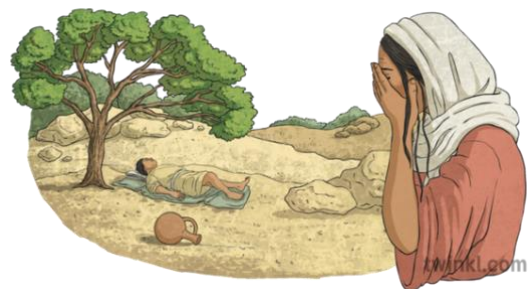
### Genesis 21: 1-21



1. Last week we explored the story of how Jesus sent out his followers to share the good news of God's love with people in the nearby towns and villages. Jesus promised to help them and he kept that promise. **God makes many promises to us and we can trust God to keep them.** In today's story God's promise of a baby for Abraham and Sarah finally came true when Isaac was born. But Abraham already had a son by another woman called Hagar. His name was Ishmael. What would happen to him now? Especially as Sarah was jealous and wanted Isaac to be the only one around. It's a story of family rivalry and unhappiness. How will God's promises work out for them all?

### 2. You can find today's story in Genesis 21: 1-21

Can you link the pictures below to the story, putting them in the right order? What captions would you put beneath each picture?



3. Can you now **retell the story** in your words? Which part of this story puzzles you? Which part surprises you? Which part is especially important for you today?
4. God's promises are for everyone in this story....not just Abraham. And God cares about everyone too. God even hears Ishmael's cries in the middle of nowhere... and God sees Hagar's sadness. **God hears our unspoken prayers and sees our hidden tears too.**
5. [Here is a song](#) about one of God's many promises in the Bible to all of us

# Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Third Sunday after Pentecost



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of God keeping his promises to Abraham.

You can find the story in your Bible in:

### Genesis 21:1-21

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

### The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 86:1- 10, 16-17  
Jeremiah 20:7-13 & Psalm 69:7-10,  
(11-15), 16-18  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Abraham that reminds us that you always keep your promises.

Thank you that you give abundantly, that you kept your promise to Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael. Thank you that you care for each of us and can give us all that we need and more.

We pray for all those in the world who are struggling to have what they need, that you would be their provider and protector.

Amen

## Discussion

### A question for adults to ask children

*What promises had God made to Abraham?*

God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations – Abraham and his wife Sarah doubted that God could give them a son, so Abraham had a son with Hagar, a boy called Ishmael. When Isaac came along there was rivalry between Abraham's two wives and sons.

But God always keeps his promises and his love is big enough to go around. God showed his love and protection for both Ishmael and Isaac. Isaac would be the father of Jacob from whom all the Israelites came. Ishmael would also have many descendants who would be known as Ishmaelites. Many years later they would play a key part in the story of Joseph, we'll be thinking about that story in a few weeks. God kept his promise twice over!

### A question for children to ask adults

*Can you think of a time when God kept a promise to you?*

The Bible is full of promises, it is great to recognise when God fulfils his promises to us in the small things as well as the large. God provides for our needs on a daily basis and is with us wherever we go.

## Family Activity 1

*You will need: Pens, paper, craft materials*



In today's story God remembered his promise to Abraham and fulfilled it for both his children. We can read God's promises to us in the Bible and know that they are for all of us and for all those who accept God's love.

Find a promise verse in the Bible, write it out and decorate it then deliver it to another family or take a photo to send to them. Here are some great promises you might like to choose.

Isaiah 40 v 29

Isaiah 41 v 10

1 John 1 v 9

2 Chronicles 7 v 14

John 3 v 16

Mark 11 v 24

6. A picture from today's story to colour and decorate

