



The Rifleman

Genesis 21:1-34

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The Birth of Isaac (verses 1-7)

1. What do these verses help you to understand about God?
2. What does Abraham's response help you to understand about trusting God?

The Problem of Ishmael (verses 8-21)

1. What was the choice that confronted Abraham?
2. How did Abraham respond to God?
3. What is Plan A? What is Plan B?
4. These days, does your relationship with God look more like Plan A or Plan B? How is that going for you?
5. What do these verses help you to understand about God that might help you to follow Plan A?

Abraham's Covenant with Abimelech (verses 22-32)

1. In what ways is Abraham's encounter with Abimelech different than his previous encounter in Genesis 20? How do Abraham's actions demonstrate his growing trust in God?
2. How might Abraham's actions in chapter 21 be an example for you to follow in trusting God?

Abraham's Heart (verses 33,34)

1. Where is Abraham living?
2. In the midst of the desert and surrounded by Philistines, what do Abraham's actions in these verses demonstrate about his heart level understanding of God?
3. These days, in the places where you "do life" what would it look like for you to "plant a tamarisk tree" and to call on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God?

Processing all that...

1. John 6:66-71 reminds us that even Jesus' disciples chose to go with Plan B. These days, what from this study will help you to stay on Plan A?

Extra Credit

1. Read John 17:20-23.
2. What characterizes the "oneness" that Jesus is praying for?
3. What is the source of that "oneness"?
4. How is "oneness" with Jesus and the Church dependent on our individually/collectively following Plan A?
5. In what ways is this group intentionally working to create the quality of oneness that Jesus prayed for?
6. As a group, how might we take our efforts to "the next level"?