

Lesson 39: God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

[Genesis 21:8-21](#)

Youtube Link for Teachers: <https://youtu.be/I9n2VqH-Jo8>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/sMPhi6fT4J8>

Worship Theme: God always hears us when we pray.

Memory Verse: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. In Your Time <https://youtu.be/uOmu3Qm5pr0>
2. God Will Make Me Happy <https://youtu.be/S6mfIMXkLNc>
3. When I Am Afraid <https://youtu.be/WCZlwstAzc>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Salty Cookies"

Materials Needed: cookies, salt, chili powder, lemon, plate, khroma

1. Teacher should mix salt, chili powder, lemon into a bowl and mist cookies with it.
2. Divide the children into 2 groups and have them select one representative and blindfold them.
3. The two blindfolded representatives have to grab a cookie from the bowl held by the teacher and feed the representative from the other group. The first group to finish eating the cookie first gets a point.
4. Play the game until everyone has had a chance. The group with most points wins the game.
5. After the game, explain to the children that just like how the cookies had different tastes, our lives are full of different events that make us happy, sad, upset, or angry. But in all circumstances, when we pray to God, God will always answer our prayers.



Introduction:

Have you ever cried? Why did you cry? Were you sad? Were you hurt? Were you angry? There are many things in life that makes us sad or angry. But even in those times, we can always depend on God because God always hears us when we pray. Today, we will learn about two people whose prayers were answered when life was very hard for them.

Bible Story:

Today our Bible story is about two families that didn't get along very well. Sarah and Abraham and Isaac were one family. Sarah and Abraham were the mom and dad, and Isaac was their little boy. Isaac was about 3 years old when this story happened.

Now Abraham had another family. Many years before Isaac was born, Sarah was worried God may not give them a son through her, so she had Abraham start a family with her servant Hagar. And Abraham had a son named Ishmael with Hagar who was a teenager by the time Isaac was born.

Sarah and Hagar didn't like each other very much. There was a lot of arguing between the Sarah and Hagar. Finally Sarah told Abraham that Hagar and her son Ishmael should move away. Abraham didn't know what to do because he loved his son Ishmael. But he also loved Sarah and his son Isaac. He didn't know what to do to solve the problem and stop all the fighting.

But God heard Abraham's worries, and God had a plan. God told Abraham not to worry about Ishmael, that it was okay for Ishmael to move away. God promised to take care of

Ishmael. So early the next morning, Abraham packed some food and water and gave them to Hagar and Ishmael. They went on their way into the desert.

The desert was hot and dusty. Hagar and Ishmael drank the water that Abraham had sent with them. Soon the water was all gone, and Hagar and Ishmael got very thirsty. They couldn't find any water. They were so thirsty that they thought they would die. Everywhere Hagar and Ishmael looked, all they found was hot, dry, dusty desert.

Ishmael was so thirsty that he started to cry. His mother put him under a bush where there was a little bit of shade from the hot sun. It hurt her to know that her son was crying and there was nothing she could do to help him. Hagar began to cry, too. But God heard Hagar and Ishmael. God came to Hagar and told her not to be afraid. God told her that he heard Ishmael cry and that he will take care of him.

Then God showed Hagar a well that she hadn't seen before. Hagar and Ishmael hurried to the well and drank and drank. God took care of Ishmael just as he had promised Abraham he would and made a big nation with him.

God loves us so much that he listens to what we have to say. God listens to our prayers always; it doesn't matter if we're singing or crying or laughing or whispering. God always hears us when we pray or talk to him!

Questions to discuss:

1. Who was Ishmael? (he was Abraham's son)
2. Who was Ishmael's mother? (Hagar)
3. What was the problem in this story? (Sarah and Hagar didn't like each other, and Sarah wanted Hagar and Ishmael to move away)
4. Why did God come to help Hagar and Ishmael? (God heard them cry, God promised Abraham he will take care of Ishmael)
5. What can you do in times of trouble? (pray to God)

Game: "Eat Sour Fruit While Smiling"

Materials Needed: Sour fruit, salt, chili powder, table, 2 chairs



1. Divide the children into 2 groups.
2. Teacher places sour fruit, salt, and chili powder on the table.
3. Select representatives from each group and have them sit on a chair, facing each other.
4. When the teacher says "ready, set, go," they have to pick one sour fruit, dip it in salt and chili powder. Then they have to eat it while smiling. If they frown or spit out the fruit, they lose the game.
5. Play the game until everyone has had a chance. The group with most points win the game.
6. After the game, explain to the children that our lives are not always sweet. But we can rejoice through our lives because God always hears our prayers.

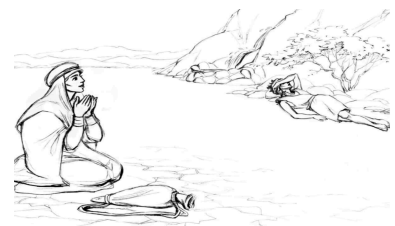
Memory Verse:

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7)

Craft: "God Hears Us When We Pray"

Materials Needed: Printed craft sheet, crayon

1. Color the picture of Ishmael and Hagar.
2. Draw God in between Ishmael and Hagar who heard their prayers and came to help them.



Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

It is because of Jesus that we know God always hears us. Jesus was sent to us to show the power of God to meet every need, even before we ask. Think about a time when it was challenging for you. During that time, did you seek God's help or felt his presence? Or was it more difficult for you to rely on God? Pray about a challenge you're facing right now. Ask God to reveal some ways that show he hears you because God always hears us when we pray.

God Hears Us When We Pray



Instruction:

1. Color the picture of Ishmael and Hagar.
2. Draw God in between Ishmael and Hagar who heard their prayers and came to help them.