

RELATIONSHIP STRONG
Small Group Discussion Guide
Dealing with Conflict

Icebreaker:

- Growing up, how did you react when a new member joined your family?
- How does living to be 100 sound to you?

Abraham and Sarah initiated a common custom of their day: Since Sarah was childless, she gave Abraham her maidservant Hagar to bear a child in order to continue the family line. Now, about 14 years after Ishmael was born, the Lord gives Abraham and Sarah the son He had long before promised them.

Read: Genesis 21:1-21

1. Abraham was 100 years old and Sara was 90 years old when their son was born. How do you think they were feeling?
2. How do you suppose Hagar felt about Isaac's arrival?
3. If you were Hagar, how would you have felt when you heard what Sarah has planned for you?
a) What will happen to us? b) What have I done to deserve being treated like this? c) Should I plead with Abraham to be fair? d) I will be glad to get away from here?
4. What long-awaited event brought you the most joy?
a) the birth of a child b) a wedding c) a graduation from school d) a new job or promotion e) other
5. God intervened by providing for Hagar and Ishmael's immediate need. What lesson can we apply from this?
a) There's always light at the end of the tunnel b) God knows what we need before we ask c) The Lord is faithful to keep His promises d) with God all things are possible
6. Comparing yourself to Hagar, what are your feelings about God?
a) I feel bitter toward God because people have let me down b) I feel like I am out in the desert and God has forgotten me c) I am hurting right now, but I do believe God hears me d) God gives me what I need when I need it e) I am learning to trust f) God has provided for me, but I am concerned about the future
7. What family relationship causes you the most stress? What have you found helpful in dealing with this?
8. How can this group support you in prayer now and in the coming week?