

God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

Genesis 21:8-21

Bible Point: God always hears us when we pray

Today we'll take a journey with Hagar and Ishmael. Hagar had a son named Ishmael, and his father was Abraham. One fine day, Ishmael and Hagar were at a great feast in celebration of Ishmael's half-brother, Isaac. It was a grand feast with all the trimmings. There were all kinds of freshly cooked meat and many different varieties of cheeses, as well as every kind of fruit imaginable. There were a lot of people there. Abraham had many friends, and he was treating them well. It was an exciting time for the family. God had given Abraham and his wife a baby boy even though they were both very old.

Hagar's son Ishmael was about 16 at the time. He was playing with Isaac when all of a sudden Sarah got angry. She said that Ishmael was making fun of little Isaac. Well, Sarah ordered Hagar and Ishmael to leave Abraham's tent, and Abraham agreed.

Abraham told Hagar that God had told him that she and Ishmael would be okay. Hagar and Ishmael didn't have any idea where they were going, but Abraham gave them some water and some food and sent them off into the desert. The area where Abraham lived was a desert. The water pouch and the food Abraham gave them was probably as much as they could comfortably carry but it wouldn't have lasted very long. They wandered for what seemed like forever and then ran out of water. Hagar was terribly worried about Ishmael, but they kept going on. Then Ishmael became weak and sick because he hadn't had water in such a long time. Hagar thought he was going to die.



Hagar placed Ishmael under a shady bush and went off to cry. All of a sudden, Hagar heard an angel of the Lord call to her. The angel told Hagar that God had heard Ishmael crying and that God would help them. The angel showed her where water was, and after drinking the water, Ishmael got better. The angel also told them that Ishmael would have a great number of descendants. Hagar was so thankful that God had heard her.

God heard Hagar and Ishmael even though they were so far away from other people. Our Bible Point says that God always hears us when we pray! All we have to do is ask, and God will hear us.

Luke 11:9: "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

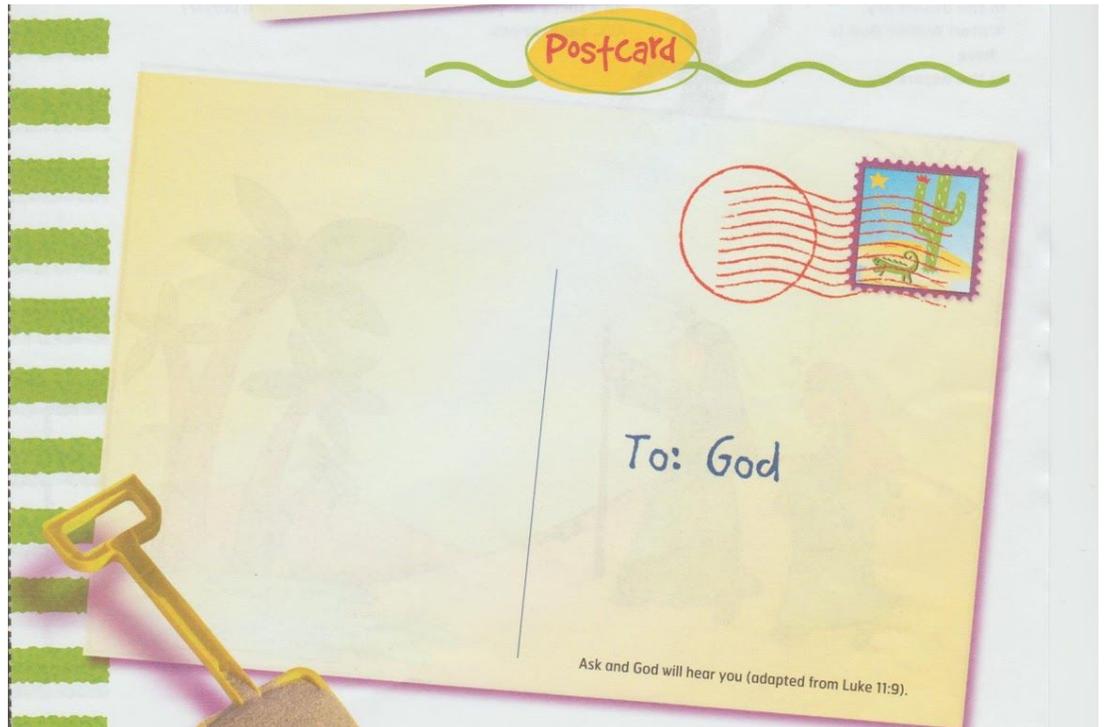
Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for listening to all our prayers. Help us to not give up praying when you don't answer immediately. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Make a Postcard:

When Hagar and Ishmael needed water and cried out to God, God heard them. God always hears us when we pray. Think of a time God heard you and helped you. Write a thank-you note to God on a postcard or draw a picture of a time God helped you!



Sliding Water Pouch Craft:

Supplies:

Paper
Print of Water-Pouch Template (see below)
Coloring pencils or crayons
Scissors
Tape or glue



Instructions:

1. Print the "Water Pouch Template" (see below) and color in your template.
Cut out all 4 pieces and remove the inside of the water pouch to create a window.



2. Fold the two flaps on the bigger piece behind. These will be where the smaller piece slides.



3. Take the two securing rectangles if you wish to use them and glue or tape in place. You only need to add glue to the tabs at the end.



4. Slide the story piece inside and pull down to tell the story: Hagar and Ishmael were sent into the desert. Their water pouch was full but it was slowly used up. Hagar was afraid for her son's life. Hagar prayed to God for help. An angel spoke to her and told her not to be afraid. God showed her where she could get water.

Instructions

Cut out the two long pieces and add any colour or words. Remove the inside of the water skin. Fold the two flaps on the top piece behind. Cut out the two securing rectangles if you wish to use them and glue in place. Slide the story piece inside and pull down to tell the story.

