

Genesis 21:1-21 - Two laughs

Two sons:

1) The son born by God's promise is celebrated with laughter (v1-7)

2) The son born by human effort mocks with laughter (v8-21)

For further discussion

- In what ways is laughter a powerful weapon?
- v1-5: What is emphasised about the son born to Abraham and Sarah? Why is this important? As we wait for Jesus to return, how does this encourage us?
- v6-7: What is the meaning of Sarah's laughter? Why is that so appropriate? Why can this be an encouragement for us even if, for example, we struggle with childlessness or other painful circumstances ourselves?
- v8-10: Why does Ishmael mock? What is right and what is wrong about Sarah's response?
- v11-13: What about Abraham's response? What do we learn about God here?
- v14-21: What are Hagar and Ishmael's priorities? How do we see God's grace to them in these circumstances?
- Which kind of laughter marks us as we consider Jesus? How does this story bring hope in the face of despair?

Which are you?

- **Laugh with the promised son and find freedom and security**

- **Laugh at the promised son and be cast out, still a slave**