

# Genesis 21–23 — Detailed Lesson Summary

Theme: Promise fulfilled → separation of flesh and promise → faith tested → legacy secured.

Text covered: Genesis 21–23 (based on your provided narration).

## 1) Genesis 21 — Isaac: God keeps His word

- **God’s timing is faithful.** “As He had said...as He had spoken” emphasizes that God does exactly what He promises, even when the wait feels long.
- **Isaac (“laughter”) turns doubt into testimony.** Abraham laughed, Sarah laughed, and God turns it into joyful worship.
- **Covenant obedience continues.** Abraham circumcises Isaac at eight days—faith shows up as obedience.

Teaching emphasis: God may not move on our schedule, but He never misses His word.

## 2) Genesis 21 — Ishmael sent away: sorrow, separation, and mercy

- **Conflict reveals competing “inheritances.”** Ishmael mocks; Sarah insists the promise line remain distinct: “In Isaac shall thy seed be called.”
- **Abraham is torn, but God directs him.** Abraham loves Ishmael, yet God confirms the covenant path through Isaac.
- **God’s care extends beyond the covenant line.** In the wilderness, God hears Ishmael, opens Hagar’s eyes to water, and promises to make Ishmael a nation.
- **Outcome:** Ishmael grows, becomes an archer, and his line becomes a people historically tied to Abraham.

Teaching emphasis: God may require separation, but He never abandons the broken in the wilderness.

## 3) Genesis 21 — Covenant with Abimelech: witness, wells, and the Everlasting God

- **Even outsiders recognize God’s hand.** Abimelech sees God is with Abraham and seeks a treaty for future security.
- **Wells matter because life depends on them.** Abraham addresses a seized well—justice and stewardship are part of faith.
- **Beersheba as “well of oath/witness.”** Seven ewe lambs serve as public witness that Abraham dug the well.
- **Worship marker.** Abraham calls on “El Olam” (the Everlasting God).

## 4) Genesis 22 — The testing of Abraham: obedience, love, and prophecy

**Key clarification:** God does not tempt people to do evil, but He *tests* to prove faith—like materials tested under stress.

- **First mention of “love.”** A father’s love for his son—pointing forward to the Father and the Son.

- **“Thine only son.”** Isaac stands as covenant son; the narration contrasts promise vs. “works of the flesh.”
- **Immediate, deliberate obedience.** The repeated “and...and...” (polysyndeton) signals steady action—no hesitation.
- **Three days and resurrection faith.** Abraham trusts God can raise Isaac because the promise must stand.
- **“We will come again.”** Abraham speaks faith that both will return.
- **Isaac carries the wood.** Foreshadowing Christ bearing the cross.
- **“God will provide Himself a lamb.”** The narration highlights this as prophetic of God’s provision in Christ.
- **Substitution.** A ram dies in Isaac’s place.
- **Jehovah Jireh.** “The LORD sees” → because God sees, He provides. “In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”

Teaching emphasis: Real faith obeys while trusting God’s promise will still stand.

## 5) Genesis 22 — Renewed oath and blessing: promise sealed

- **God swears by Himself.** He confirms the covenant by His own name.
- **Promise of multiplied seed.** “Stars” and “sand” communicate innumerable descendants and enduring legacy.
- **Victory included.** “Possess the gate of his enemies” speaks of future triumph and security.
- **Isaac’s “silence.”** The narration notes Isaac fades from the story for a time—typologically echoing Christ before “meeting the bride.”

## 6) Genesis 23 — Sarah’s death and Abraham’s first owned land

- **Grief is honored.** Abraham mourns and weeps—faith does not deny sorrow.
- **Sojourner to landowner.** Abraham owns nothing yet, so he seeks a burial site as his first legal possession in Canaan.
- **Public integrity.** Though offered as a “gift” in customary politeness, Abraham insists on paying.
- **Full price paid.** Abraham pays 400 shekels—securing unquestioned ownership.
- **Legacy marker.** Machpelah becomes the family tomb—faith plants a foothold in God’s promised future.

## Teaching Flow for a Bible Study (Suggested)

- **Hook:** “As He had said...as He had spoken.” Where are you waiting on God’s timing?
- **1)** Promise fulfilled (Isaac): joy + obedience.
- **2)** Separation + mercy (Hagar/Ishmael): hard obedience + God’s compassion.
- **3)** Peace + witness (Abimelech): integrity, justice, worship.

- **4)** The test (Moriah): obedience anchored in promise; substitution; Jehovah Jireh.
- **5)** Legacy (Sarah's tomb): faith secures a future foothold.
- **Close:** Trust the God who sees, provides, and keeps His word.

# Genesis 21–23 — More Concise Version (One-Page Style)

- **21:1–7 Promise kept:** God fulfills His word to Sarah. Isaac (“laughter”) becomes proof that God turns doubt into joy.
- **21:8–21 Separation + mercy:** Ishmael’s mocking triggers separation from the covenant line. God still hears, provides water, and promises Ishmael a nation.
- **21:22–34 Integrity + worship:** Abimelech seeks peace. Abraham secures a well as a public witness and worships El Olam (Everlasting God).
- **22 Faith tested:** God tests Abraham. Abraham obeys, trusts God’s promise (even resurrection), and God provides a substitute. Jehovah Jireh: the LORD sees and provides.
- **22 Covenant confirmed:** God swears by Himself and renews the promise of innumerable descendants and future victory.
- **23 Legacy secured:** Sarah dies. Abraham purchases Machpelah—his first owned land in Canaan—anchoring hope in God’s promise.