# LESSON 17

# ISHMAEL IS BORN



**Aim:** **To teach the children that when we try to do things our way, it may bring sorrow and suffering to many people.**

**Scripture Reading:** **Genesis 16:1-16**

**Memory Verse:** **Proverbs 3:5**
**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding ...**

## Presenting the Lesson

### Starting Point

Sometimes people are impatient. When they plant seeds they expect to see signs of growth within a day. Children especially often cannot wait, so they dig up the seeds to see what is happening.

### Main Points of Today's Teaching

1. Abraham and Sarah had been married much longer than ten years but they still had no children. Yet God had promised them as many descendants as there are stars in the sky! **Show Picture 16.** Abraham kept on believing God.
2. Sarah could not wait any longer. She arranged for Abraham to have a child by her Egyptian servant girl, Hagar (16:1-4).
3. From the time Hagar became pregnant with Abraham's child there was no peace in the household. Hagar became proud and despised Sarah, who had not been able to have a child, while Sarah was jealous of Hagar (16:4-5).
4. Abraham did not stop the quarrels. Instead, they became worse. Finally, Hagar ran away (16:6).
5. God sent an angel to comfort Hagar and tell her that she would have a son who would be called Ishmael, which means "God hears". The angel told her that this son would have many descendants ... but he also would fight against everybody else. Hagar obediently returned to Sarah (16:7-12). Ishmael became the forefather of the Arab people.
6. Hagar's baby was born and she named him Ishmael. **Show Picture 17.** Not everyone in the picture is really celebrating the birth of this child. Sarah, who arranged it all, looks very unhappy (16:15).



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## Instil the Memory Verse

## Our Response to the Story

Sometimes we try to do things our way. Sarah and Abraham did not wait for a son of their own to arrive in God's good time. They became impatient and doubted God. Had he forgotten them? When we follow our own heads we may bring sorrow and suffering to many, as Abraham and Sarah did to all their descendants. We need to trust God and wait for him to show the way ahead.






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