

Life lessons from Sarah

Various Scriptures

“By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”

-Hebrews 11:11

While most people are familiar with the patriarchs of the Bible, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we are also blessed to learn from the examples of their wives. In preparing for this study, pay close attention to how each of these women handle their challenges in life and stretch out their faith in God.

Did you know?

* Sarai was Abram’s step sister? **Genesis 11:31, Genesis 20:12; Romans 5:13**

*They were born and raised in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans? From there they moved to Haran which was a cross roads trading town in the middle of the best route to avoid traveling through the desert. While living there they became very wealthy then out of nowhere God _____ Abram to pack up everything and leave. **Genesis 11:28;31; Genesis 12:1-5**

*Sarai was unable to have children? **Genesis 11:30**

* God changed their names? In the Bible, when God changed a person’s name and gave him/her a new name it was to establish a _____ identity. In this case, Abram which means “high father” was changed to Abraham meaning “father of a multitude” and Sarai which means “my princess was changed to Sarah meaning “mother of nations”. **Genesis 17:5; 17:15**

By looking at this list, what do you think would be the greatest challenge they would face together?

In Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-5 we see some major promises being made by God. But the question is when and how is God going to bless Abram and give him an heir when his wife Sarai is barren?

Sarah teaches us a valuable lesson on patience:

Oftentimes when we are forced to wait for something to happen or someone to respond to our request we get _____ and take matters into our own hands causing more damage than good. Sarah teaches us a valuable lesson on patience.

After Abram heard the promises of God, he worshiped, fell asleep and had a dream. In this dream the Lord reassured him that although his descendants would be slaves in the land for 400 years, eventually they would be set free and come away with great wealth. (Genesis 15)

What is the first thing you think Abram did when he woke up from sleeping?

Sarai begins to think _____ and reason within herself; Since I can't have children maybe one of my servants can have one for me. Before we get down on Saria, keep in mind it has been 10 years since they arrived in Canaan. **Genesis 16:1-3**

Notice how her plan backfired

*Her husband had _____ with another woman. **Genesis 16:4a**

*Her servant started _____ her. **Genesis 16:4b**

*It caused _____ and _____ in her marriage and relationship with Hagar. **Genesis 16:5-6**

*Ishmael is born but is not the true heir, Abram is now _____ years old. **Genesis 16:15-16**

Can you think of a time when you tried to do things on your own and it made matter worse? What did you learn?

So we see 14 years later, God speaks directly and specifically to Abram again. This time He affirms His covenant promise, renames both he and his wife and tells him Sarah will give birth to a son. By now Abraham is _____ and Sarah is _____. For one to think that they could conceive and bear children defies all human and scientific reasoning, nonetheless they listen to God. **Genesis 17:15-16**

Not long afterwards, the Lord appeared again to Abraham in Genesis 18. This time God sends three men to pay him a visit. As they sat with him, one of the men spoke and said, this time _____ year your wife will have a son. So if you're keeping count, this is now the 4th time God has spoken about these blessings and promises over a span of 24 years. **Genesis 12; 15; 17 and Genesis 18:10**

By now both of them are laughing! **Genesis 17:17-18; Genesis 18:12**

But God asks a question, Is anything too hard for the Lord?

In Genesis 17:1 He says, I am El-Shaddai which translates "God Almighty". The root meaning is also known as "The Overpower-er". In other words, God will do what He purposes to do. He is not restricted by time, age, opposition or our failures, whatever He wants to do He gets it done.

The next time you're tempted to doubt God's Word, or laugh in disbelief remember He is El-Shaddai.

As expected, Genesis 21:1-2 tells us the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God has spoken to him.

In reflecting on this, how does this help you in those moments when your patience is being tested?

Not only does Sarah teach us a lesson in **patience** but we also see in her a mother's **protection**.

As Isaac grew from infancy to childhood, Abraham threw a feast to _____ the occasion. While everyone was together Sarah notices Ishmael ridiculing and mocking Isaac so she demands Hagar and Ishmael be removed from the camp. Another reason she wanted them out was because she didn't want Isaac sharing his inheritance. Although this hurt Abraham to his core, the Lord supported Sarah's decision. **Genesis 21:8-12**

What are your thoughts about a mother's protection? As a mother, how do you balance between not enough protection and too much? Was your mother protective of you? What kind of impact does it have on your life today?

Death of Sarah:

Sarah lived to be _____ years old. Although Abraham remarried, when he died he was laid to rest next to the tomb of Sarah. **Genesis 23:1-2; Genesis 25:10**

Other Scriptures about Sarah:

Isaiah 52:2; Romans 4:19; 9:9; Hebrews 11:11; 1 Peter 3:6

“To lose patience is the Lose the battle.”
-Mahatma Gandhi