

Read Genesis 17:17-27

17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?”

18 And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”

19 Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”

22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

23 On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.

24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised,

25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen;

26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that very day.

27 And every male in Abraham’s household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.

Why did Abraham laugh (v. 17)? He couldn’t imagine how a 100-year-old man and a 90-year-old woman could have a baby. He thought that was really funny. Can you imagine your grandma and grandpa having a baby?

What did Abraham say to God (v. 18)? Why don’t you just let Ishmael inherit the covenant?

How did God answer Abraham’s suggestion (vv. 19-20)? No. I won’t let Ishmael be the one who inherits the covenant. Sarah is going to have a baby and you will name him Isaac. But I will take care of Ishmael. He will have many descendants.

What did God tell Abraham (v. 21)? My covenant will be with you and not with Ishmael. And Sarah will have baby Isaac next year at this time.

What did Abraham do on the very day (v. 23)? He circumcised every man and every boy in his family and his household.

What does that tell us about Abraham? He was very obedient. He did exactly as God told him to do without any arguing. He had a strong faith in God.

How old were Abraham and Ishmael on the day they were circumcised (vv. 24-25)? Abraham was 99 and Ishmael was 13.