"God Has the Last Laugh" Genesis 21:1–21 July 23, 2023

Laughing (Genesis 21:1–7)

"By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." (Hebrews 11:11–12)

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him." (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Mocking (Genesis 21:8-14)

"But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now." (Galatians 4:29)

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

"But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but 'Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.' This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring." (Romans 9:6–8)

Weeping (Genesis 21:15-21)

"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10)

"Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

Notes		

Discuss

- Can you share an example of a time when God (literally or metaphorically) turned your unbelieving laughter into joyful laughter?
- What does it look like for you to (metaphorically) cast out Hagar and Ishmael and choose freedom over slavery?
- How does Genesis 21:12 show the sovereign choice of God in salvation, and what is your reaction to it?
- Is there a way that people failed you but God stepped in and picked up their slack?

Read

Psalm 113:1-9; Galatians 4:21-5:1; Romans 9:1-29

Pray

- That the Holy Spirit will strengthen your faith to wait for him to keep his promises.
- That the Holy Spirit will show you ways that you are relying on human effort, not the promises of God.

Bulletin

- Women's Bible Study (Twelve Weeks): Wednesdays at 10:00am
- Sunday School Move Up Sunday: July 30
- Men's Breakfast: August 12 at 8:00am
- Exploring Membership: August 13, 20, 27, and September 3 at 9:30am