

## Galatians 4:21-31 Study

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ GALATIANS 4:21-31

1. In verse 21 Paul refers to the law (commandments God gave to Moses) and then to the law (the Pentateuch or first 5 books of the Old Testament, which includes the story of Abraham). How does Paul's question expose their inconsistent and illogical thinking in this passage?

2. How do the two births represent the two ways of being in a relationship with God?

3. Read Genesis 15:1-4; 16:1-4; 21:1-3 and explain why Abraham had the two sons?

4. From this passage and the Genesis verses above, share lessons evident from Abraham and Sarah's actions. How have you experienced such lessons?

5. In verse 27, Paul quotes Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 54:1) regarding the Babylonian exile. What is Paul **implying** in this verse? How does this bring you encouragement where you have found disappointment?

6. The Judiazers considered themselves the children of Sarah and viewed Gentiles as the children of Hagar. Why does Paul reverse this? How does this reinforce his point in Galatians 3:7 and 4:6-9?

**NOTE:** "If we are like Isaac, we must expect to be treated as Isaac was treated. The treatment Isaac got from his half-brother Ishmael is the treatment that Isaac's descendants will get from Ishmael's descendants. And the treatment that Isaac got from his father Abraham is the treatment we must expect from God."  
(The Message of Galatians p.126 by John R. W. Stott)

7. Paul says that just as it was with Isaac, who was persecuted by the one born according to the flesh, "so it is now" (v. 29). What does he mean? How were they being persecuted?

8. What can children of the promise expect both negatively and positively according to this passage?