

HAGAR and Ishmael

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Illustrated by Richard Gunther



God promised Abraham a son, but Sarah got too old to have children, so she gave her maid to him and they had a baby called Ishmael. Then, miraculously, old Sarah and Abraham had a baby son of their own!

Abraham had two sons. The youngest boy Isaac was born to his wife Sarah, and the older boy Ishmael, was born to Hagar, his wife Sarah's Egyptian maid.



Sarah was jealous of Abraham's first born son and when she saw Ishmael mocking Isaac, she told her husband to send Hagar and Ishmael away.



Abraham sadly gave Hagar a piece of bread and one bottle of water and sent her and his son Ishmael, off into the lonely, hot desert.



Soon their water was gone and it was so hot that Ishmael was dying of thirst. Hagar didn't want to see him die. She lay him under a bush, sat down a little way off and cried.



God sent an angel to help her. "Don't be afraid. Lift up your son. God will make him the father of a great nation," promised the angel.



Hagar obeyed the angel. She dried her eyes and got up. Then she saw a well of water nearby. They drank the water and were saved.



Ishmael was a wild spirited boy and his descendants did become a great nation. Hagar believed God's promise the angel had told her.