

Hagar and Sarah - Galatians 4:21-31

Topics:

Believers, Bible, Children, Covenant, Freedom, Holy Spirit, Law, Slavery

Open It

1. What is unique about being the firstborn child in a family?

2. In your family, how were you and your siblings each treated differently?

Explore It

3. Before the Galatians truly gave themselves over to the Law, what did Paul ask them to consider? (4:21)

4. Why did Paul appeal to the example of Abraham? (4:22)

5. What was the difference in status between Abraham's two sons? (4:22)

6. How were Abraham's sons conceived? (4:23)

7. How did Hagar represent the covenant at Mount Sinai? (4:24)

8. How did Paul refer to the birth of Abraham's sons? (4:24-27)

9. In what way did Hagar typify first-century Jerusalem? (4:25)

10. How was Sarah an example of the "Jerusalem that is above"?
(4:26-27)

11. How did Paul apply an ancient prophecy to Sarah's history? (4:27)

12. How were the Galatians like Isaac (the child of promise)? (4:28)

13. How were the Judaizers like Ishmael (the child of slavery)? (4:29)

14. Based on his illustration, how did Paul expect the Galatians to deal with the legalists? (4:28-30)

15. How did Paul compare Ishmael’s persecution of Isaac to the legalists’ opposition to the Christians? (4:29-30)

16. How did Paul align himself with the Galatians and Sarah? (4:31)

Get It

17. Why was Paul’s allegory helpful in explaining Law and grace?

18. In your family, do you feel like a child of Hagar or a child of Sarah? Why?

19. In what ways do Christians try to impose extra-biblical standards on one another?

20. Which of your own rules or personal standards are you tempted to require of others?

21. How does the new birth in Christ give us freedom?

22. What do you have in common with Isaac?

23. How should you treat people who try to impose their standards on you?

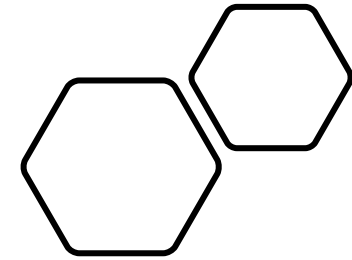
Apply It

24. What can you do this week to encourage other Christians to enjoy their freedom in Christ?

25. What will help you avoid unfairly imposing your own standards on others?

26. How can you start drawing on your inheritance in Christ today?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.



BIBLE STUDY

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Galatians 4:21-31 “Hagar and Sarah”

TOPICS

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OPEN IT QUESTIONS



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Introduction

The final paragraph of [Galatians 4](#) records an extended allegory (parable or story). Hagar and Sarah, Abraham's wives-in-conflict, illustrate the conflict between law and grace. The Judaizers, indeed all Jews, took great pride in their descent from godly Abraham. However, as John the Baptist and Jesus pointed out, merely being descended from Abraham was not enough to secure salvation (see [Matthew 3:9](#); [John 8:37-44](#)). Paul made the same point in this section, though from a slightly different angle.



EXPLORE IT QUESTIONS



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3. Before the Galatians truly gave themselves over to the Law, what did Paul ask them to consider? ([4:21](#))



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“Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says?” (4:21 NLT)



4. Why did Paul appeal to the example of Abraham? ([4:22](#))

**Explore It
Questions**



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4. Why did Paul appeal to the example of Abraham? ([4:22](#))

“The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife”
(4:22 NLT).



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6. How were Abraham's sons conceived? ([4:23](#))

“The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God’s promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God’s own fulfillment of his promise”
(**4:23 NLT**).



7. How did Hagar represent the covenant at Mount Sinai?
([4:24](#))

**Explore It
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7. How did Hagar represent the covenant at Mount Sinai? ([4:24](#))

“These two women serve as an illustration of God’s two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them” (**4:24 NLT**).



Explore It Questions

8. How did Paul refer to the birth of Abraham's sons?
([4:24-27](#))



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²⁴ These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them.

²⁵ And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law.

²⁶ But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother.

²⁷ As Isaiah said, "Rejoice, O childless woman, you who have never given birth!

Break into a joyful shout, you who have never been in labor! For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband!"



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“And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac” (4:28 NLT).



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“But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit” (4:29 NLT).



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“So, dear brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman; we are children of the free woman” ([4:31 NLT](#)).



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