

## The Story of **ISAAC** - A Testimony to God's Grace & Power



*"1 The Lord kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. 2 She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. 3 And Abraham named their son Isaac. .... 5 Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born."* Genesis 21:1-5 NLT.

Isaac was a miracle child. He was born to Abraham at the age of 100 and Sarah at the age of 91. Wherever Isaac would go, people would marvel at the miracle. They would see physical evidence to God's power, sovereignty, and faithfulness. Just the presence of Isaac was a testimony and witness to people about God's grace and power.

God has made us a miracle child, too, if we have experienced God's grace, mercy, redemption, and transformation. Wherever we go, our lives should be a witness to God's goodness, grace, and redeeming power. We should be evidence of God turning ruined sinners into redeemed saints. Our witness should be from our lives and our lips.

### The Central Lesson:

**We should be a testimony to God's grace and power by our lives and our lips.**

### The life of Isaac was a testimony that...

1. **God keeps His word and is FAITHFUL to His promises (21:1).**

*"21 The Lord kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised."*

God appeared in human form to Abraham and announced that Sarah would have a son the same time next year. Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 99 (see Gen. 18:10-15). Sarah laughed to herself in disbelief. God asked Sarah why she laughed. From embarrassment she denied laughing. However, God knows all hearts and told her that she did laugh in disbelief. One year later at the age of 91 Sarah gave birth to Isaac.

2. **God is in CONTROL of the clock of human history (21:2).**

*"2 She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would."*

God gave a specific time that Sarah would have a son. It happen the very time God foretold. God has power to control the clock of human history.

3. **God has the power to OVERRIDE the laws of nature and do the miraculous (21:5-7).**

*"5 Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. 6 And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me. 7 Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse a baby? Yet I have given Abraham a son in his old age!"*

This story is a story of the miraculous. God's power and faithfulness was displayed. God demonstrated that He has the power to override the laws of nature. A womb that was beyond the time of bearing children conceived and gave birth to a son, Isaac.

4. **God can give our hearts JOY and LAUGHTER in a world of sorrow (21:6).**

*"6 And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me."*

In ancient culture, it was shameful for a woman to not be able to bear children. Sarah had lived with that shame and sorrow all her life. But when God allowed her to give birth to Isaac, her world changed. God gave her joy and laughter in a world that had been characterized by sorrow.

### Why We Should Be A Testimony

1. **People are WATCHING us (Gen. 26:26-29).** The king of the Philistines, Abimelech, visited Isaac and requested they make a peace treaty. The reason was because *"We can plainly see that the Lord is with you.... the Lord has blessed you!"* The Philistines had been watching Isaac and saw his testimony. People are watching us, too.
2. **Like it or not, for BETTER or WORSE, we are a testimony.** Our only choice is whether we are a good one or bad one. What kind of testimony are you?

### How Your Life Can Be A Testimony

1. **Live RIGHT.**

One author wrote: "God's evangelistic strategy in a nutshell: He desires to build into you and me the beauty of his own character, and then put us on display." (Joseph Aldrich). Someone else has said, "Be a witness every day, and when necessary, use words."

2. **Share Your STORY.**

As God opens the doors of opportunity, share with people how God has saved you and worked in your heart and life. Do you know how to share your testimony?

3. **PRAY with People.**

People are hurting. Life is filled with problems. Everyone needs the Lord. People are blessed when we take the time to pray with them. They appreciate that someone cares about them and helps them connect with God through prayer. People never forget the ones that prayed for them when they were struggling. Our ministry of prayer can encourage people to turn to Christ.

4. **Share a simple GOSPEL explanation with people.**

In short - ask permission, explain the Gospel, help them respond, encourage them to grow spiritually. There are many good Gospel explanations: Peace with God, The Three Circles, The Bridge to God, Do Versus Done, The Three Key Words, etc. Get training and allow God to use you.

**We should be a testimony to God's grace and power by our lives and our lips.**

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.