

MOURNING TURNED TO DANCING

Genesis 21:1-7

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Talk about a time when you made a commitment and didn't follow through on it. What happened? Why did it happen?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

Intro:

- **Read** Genesis 21:1-7 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Brad reminded us of three ways that **God does what He says He will do**.
- Look back at the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, an illustration, a challenge, a question, or a new way of thinking)?

#1 - In His Own Timing (Genesis 21:1-2)

- A. For 25 years, Abraham and Sarah waited for God to fulfill His promise to give them a son. Talk about a recent time when you were waiting for something you believed God wanted for you.
- B. During that time, who/what were you tempted to put your faith in instead of waiting patiently for the Lord to fulfill His promises? Why do you think that's true?
- C. How has God used His Word, other people, or circumstances to give you a more patient faith?

#2 - Turning Tears Into Laughter (Genesis 21:3-7)

- A. Abraham and Sarah's joy was so great partly because it was preceded by so much sorrow. How has God given you great joy after periods of great sorrow? Are you a joyful person?
- B. You may still be in a time of waiting, struggling, or trials. How can you rejoice and celebrate God (not just what He gives, or what you want to get from Him) during this time?
- C. Tim Chadick said, "We all long for prosperity, but we grow the most through adversity." What are some ways that our desire for comfort hinders our ability to be more like Christ?

#3 - Despite Our Lack Of Faith

- A. Do you find it easier to have faith in God, or to trust in something or someone else? What are some examples of that in your life?
- B. God's promises are not dependent on our faithfulness, but on His faithfulness (Ephesians 2:8-9). As a parent, a spouse, a co-worker, etc., how has God demonstrated His faithfulness to you despite your lack of faith in Him at times?
- C. As a group, how have you seen each other grow through difficult circumstances recently? Take time to celebrate that growth and praise God together today.

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, list some of God's promises from Scripture, then take time to thank Him out loud for doing what He says He will do.

