

**WEEK 12 | THE LISTENING LORD
GENESIS 21:8-21**



- 1.) Read Genesis 21:8-21. What stands out to you as significant, challenging, or confusing?
- 2.) How would your relationship with God be different if you were fully convinced (to the very depths of your being) that God hears you?
- 3.) On Sunday Brian suggested that Abraham (like us most of the time) has mixed motives in wanting to keep Ishmael around. On the one hand, it may be love for his son (this is a good motive). On the other hand, Ishmael might be a “back up plan” in case something happens to Isaac. In your faith journey, what “back up plans” have you had to abandon to more fully devote yourself to the cause of Christ? Is there a “back up plan” you are holding onto now?
- 4.) Brian talked about having “eyes to see.” (He used the example of buying a particular brand of car and then seeing them everywhere; or learning they were pregnant and seeing babies everywhere). What has helped you develop “eyes to see” what God is doing in the world?
- 5.) Is there anyone around you in a wilderness (like Hagar and Ishmael) on whom you can show compassion and help? How does knowing that God has helped you push you to help others?
- 6.) What can you apply to your life this week? (See the Spiritual Exercise for suggestions)

Spiritual Exercise: It’s Holy Week, so make a plan to come to the Good Friday gathering (Friday April 6, 7pm at Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship). Maybe you could plan to go together as a group. (Note: We are not able to offer childcare at this gathering, but there will be kids rooms available for parents to use with children).

Also, there are lots of great ways to serve Cincinnati in the next month. Challenge your group members to choose one way to serve:

- Volunteer for Super Saturdays at Parker School in April (14, 21, 28) – 8:30am-11:30am. You can tutor a student or volunteer to help with breakfast or lunch. You can sign up for one, or all 3 Saturdays. Sign up by checking the Events page at newcitycincy.org.
- Join the Great American Cleanup in Oakley or Madisonville on April 21 (RSVP to amy.samad@newcitycincy.org).
- Help with the New City Water Station for the Flying Pig on May 6 (click to the rotator image on the home page at newcitycincy.org).