

Women's Bible Study Israel/Palestine Conflict 2024

Session 1

What questions do you have about the conflict in the Holy Lands? What do you hope to learn in our time together?

Overview of the Course

Genesis 16:1-15 The Birth of Ishmael

- What does this story tell us about Sarah?
- How do you think Hagar feels about this situation?
- What is promised to Hagar by God?
- Vs 12: Does this seem like a metaphor describing the Arab world today?
- NOTE: Ishmael is not the father of Islam-Islam does not come into existence for over 2000 years after his death. But the people of the Arabian Peninsula are considered to be descendants of Ishmael and this is where Islam took hold.

Genesis 17:7-8, 15-22 The Covenant Established

- What does God promise Abraham?
- How long will Abraham be given this land?

Genesis 17:15-22

- What blessing does God promise to Sarah?
- Is Ishmael considered to be a part of the promise, a part of the covenant?
- What does Abraham ask of God? Why is Abraham laughing?
- What does God do, or will do, for Ishmael and his descendants?
- How might verse 21 be used by Jews against Muslims?

Exodus 3:1-8: Moses and the Burning Bush

- Many generations have passed since Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael. Still no promised land for the Jews.
- God mentions Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, but not Ishmael. Is this significant?
- What is the promise God made to Moses and all the Israelites?
- Did God deliver on God's promises?

Genesis 13:3-10: Passover

- This is the seder, the Passover celebration-see how it is tied to the promise as well.
- God will bring the people out of slavery in Egypt to where?

Joshua 23:1-5

- What land, specifically, does the Lord promise to give to Joshua and all of Israel?
- What land are the Palestinians and the Jews still fighting over today?
- Is there any hope that peace will ever return to the "promised" land? If so, how? If not, what options are there moving forward?

We will pick up next time setting the stage for the 21st century political setting in the Holy Lands.

Close with the Lord's Prayer

