

Genesis 21

September 24, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

“Character is both developed and revealed by tests, and all of life is a test... You'll be tested by major changes, by delayed promises, by impossible problems, by unanswered prayers, undeserved criticism, and even senseless tragedies... When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life. Even the smallest incident has significance for your character development. Every day is an important day, and every second is a growth opportunity to deepen your character, to demonstrate love, or to depend on God. The good news is that God wants you to pass the tests of life.” – *Rick Warren*

Lesson #1 - God keeps His promises.

Joshua 21:45 - Not a single one of all the good promises God made to Israel failed; every one came to pass.

Hebrews 13:5 - "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Dan. 3:24-25 - Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Yes, Your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see *four men* walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like *the Son of God*."

2 Cor. 3:18 - We are being transformed into His image.

Lesson #2 - God's timing is perfect.

John 11:6 - When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days.

Genesis 21

September 24, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Lesson #3 - God can do the impossible.

Heb. 11:19 - Abraham reasoned that God was able to raise him (Isaac) from the dead.

Lesson #4 - God can turn sorrow into joy.

Gen. 17:17 - Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said, and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

Genesis 21

September 24, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Lesson #5 - God sees our problems and hears our prayers.

Lesson #6 - God often gives us "make-up" exams.
