

Who	Reference	Story Summary	Planned or Unplanned?	What's the point?
1. Lot and his daughters	Genesis 19:30-38			
2. Abram and Hagar	Genesis 16:1-16			
3. Tamar	Genesis 38			
4. Sarah	Genesis 17:15-21, 21:1-7			
5. Elizabeth	Luke 1:5-25, 57-66			
6. Hannah	1 Samuel 1			
7. Mary	Luke 1:26-38			
8. Joseph	Matthew 1:18-25			

1. Which of these pregnancies would you say were “wickedly planned?” Explain. How do they compare to unplanned pregnancies?
2. The Bible has stories of unplanned parenthood, too. Reread God’s response to Sarah’s planning in Genesis 17:15-21 and 21:1-7. Also read the story of Elizabeth in Luke 1:5-25, 57-66. What do these unlikely stories tell us about planning for parenthood?
3. How does St. Paul contrast the two children of Abraham—Ishmael, born of Hagar, and Isaac, born of Sarah—in Galatians 4:21-31?
4. What do Hannah and Mary share in common in their reaction to the news of their pregnancies?
5. Mary was a single woman at the time of her pregnancy, although she was betrothed to Joseph. Betrothal is a stronger relationship than engagement; they were legally committed to marriage. How does Joseph model for us how to care for a woman with an unplanned pregnancy? (Matthew 1:18-25)
6. While Mary’s unplanned pregnancy was holy and she was righteous on account of her faith, many unplanned pregnancies are the result of sin. Where can a woman turn if she is faced with unplanned parenthood? See Psalm 68:4-6; Psalm 130:3-4.
7. Read the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17 and note the women who are listed. See also Romans 8:18-30. How might God use less than righteous pregnancies?
8. As we close the lesson, reflect on the question that started it. How does God view children, planned and unplanned? How do you view them? Has your opinion changed? Explain.