

THE GOD WHO SEES ME

The God who sees you knows how to take care of you!

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The story of Hagar in Genesis 16 is an intriguing one. While not the main character in the story of Abraham and Sarah, Hagar was nonetheless impacted by their experience.
- ❖ In Genesis 12, God had promised Abraham that He would use him to bless the world and that a great nation would be produced from his family (v.v. 1-3).
- ❖ But there was a challenge to this promise: with each passing day Abraham was getting older and older and he still had no children.
- ❖ Abraham and Sarah wrestled with the tension of their experience. On the one hand, they have this incredible promise from God that He was going to use them powerfully. Then, on the other, their life experience of not having any children appeared to contradict God's promise.
- ❖ As believers in Jesus, we sometimes also experience the same dichotomy—where we have powerful promises of God spoken over our lives that are directly contradicted by life experiences that don't seem to align with God's promises. Even when experiencing those times, remember to have faith in the God who sees you.
- ❖ Now as Abraham and Sarah wrestled with the promise of God over their lives, enter Hagar, and Sarah comes up with an idea on how she and her husband can fulfill God's promise for their lives. In Genesis 16, Sarah tells Abraham to have children with Hagar (v. 2).
- ❖ Sarah's action reflected the customs and legal practices of the ancient Near East, where a barren wife could give her maidservant to her husband to bear children on her behalf.
- ❖ But when Hagar became pregnant, her attitude towards Sarah changed. She became proud and "began to despise her mistress" (v. 4). Sarah started to treat Hagar harshly after seeing her behaviour and Hagar ran away (v. 6).
- ❖ Remember that Hagar is not the protagonist in this story; she got pulled into it because of Abraham and Sarah's unbelief.
- ❖ Yet, the "angel of the Lord" took note of Hagar and went out of His way to find her in the desert or wilderness in order to minister to her and to comfort and strengthen her (v. 7).
- ❖ The God who sees is able to see you even when you're in a desert or wilderness place spiritually.
- ❖ Note that the "angel of the Lord" is an expression of the manifestation of God Himself, rather than an angelic messenger, and that the "wilderness" is a term that often refers to desolate, uninhabited, and uncultivated places.
- ❖ While desperate and alone in a desert place, Hagar didn't realize she was sitting by a spring.
- ❖ The setting of a spring in the desert is symbolic of life and sustenance in a barren place, with water sometimes representing spiritual refreshment and divine provision in Scripture.
- ❖ The God who sees us knows how to provide our needs when it feels like we're in a barren place spiritually.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 16:1-16

(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ God shows up and instructs Hagar to go home, telling her that He will take care of her and her son whom He tells her to name Ishmael, which means “God hears” or “God will hear” (v. 11).
- ❖ The God who sees wanted Hagar to know that He is also the God who hears and will hear.
- ❖ The God who sees you wants *you* to know that He not only sees you, but that He also hears you. He will hear you when you cry out to Him!
- ❖ So, Hagar returns to Abraham and Sarah, but after some time, tension once again arose and Hagar found herself in the wilderness yet again.
- ❖ This time she had Ishmael with her, the physical representation of God’s promise that she could feel, touch, experience, and interact with.
- ❖ The stress and tension of Hagar’s situation was so difficult that she lost hope in the promise God that was with her. She abandoned the Word of God in her life. She hid it, and left it (Ishmael) to die.
- ❖ But the God who sees is a deliver, and He delivered Hagar again and her son (see Gen. 21:15-20).
- ❖ The God who sees, who helped you yesterday, is the same God who continues to see you and who will help you today!
- ❖ God sees and knows every detail of your life. Therefore, trust that He will strengthen you even as you experience challenges, struggles, and trials, and that He is able to provide even in wilderness places.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. God made a promise to Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky (Gen. 15:1-6). Discuss the promise and any obstacles to it, and God's plans versus man's plans and the consequences/benefits of following one over the other. Consider at least two other figures from the Bible who either waited on God or tried to hurry His plans along and discuss the same things as above.
2. Like Hagar, have you ever been in a "wilderness" situation where you were seemingly alone in a desolate situation? Did you receive a Word from the Lord, whether by way of preaching, teaching, Scripture, etc.? What was that Word, and was there a change in either the situation or in your attitude towards what was happening?
3. Take time to give thanks to God who sees you!

Start-up. Has a person of authority ever treated you badly? Now who do you want to deal with the situation? What do you want them to do?

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/On)

Confirms) (New idea)

! (Do this) ❤ (Speaks to my heart) 📸 (Must share)

!(Do this) ❤️(Speaks to my heart) 📸(Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Ministries: Departments, Directors, and participants.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY LEADERS' MEETING

Sunday, January 25th, 2025 @ 1:15 p.m. in the Upper Chapel.

JANUARY FASTING

There will be fasting every Friday during the month of January from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you already fast on another day, please continue with that.

Contact: Pastor Adrian Peel

OPEN CALL SIGN UP

If you're interested in volunteering with the Praise & Worship, Production, or Communications teams, please attend the sign-up session on Sunday, February 15th, 2026 from 1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Faith Conference Center.

Contact: Pastor Daniel Peel



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 25, 2026

Faith SANCTUARY

Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer
~2026~

**Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel**

"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"

Genesis 16:13 (NIV)

1901 Jane St., Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9

Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com

Website: www.faithsanctuary.com

Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>