

Notes . . .

Life Group Growth Guides

PASSAGE FOR STUDY

Genesis 16

THIS WEEK'S TAKE HOME TRUTH

God Hears Your Prayers and Sees Your Plight

¹³ Hagar 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



Opener

* “The worst feeling isn’t being lonely but feeling forgotten.” True or Untrue? Explain. Recount a time in your life where you most felt “invisible” or “insignificant”.



First Look

*Read Genesis 16:1-4 . . . The practice of surrogate motherhood didn’t go against cultural, but it went against God. Why was God displeased w Abram and Sarai? For most believers, Plan A is “Trust God”, but Plan B is “Help God”. How were Abram and Sarai “helping God”? How might this frustrated couple have rationalized their actions? How are Sarai’s words similar to Eve’s in the garden?

*Read Proverbs 14:12; 3:5-6. Predictably, homemade solutions backfire. What wisdom might have these verses added to Abram and Sarai’s situation? Why do you think God required this aging couple to wait?



Digging Deeper

*Read Genesis 16:13,14. What stands out as significant about these verses? Hagar is both “seen” by God but also “sees” God. Who is Hagar seeing? What makes this Epiphany so unique? Hagar is the only person in the bible to name God, “El Roi”, which means the God who sees. Why do you think Hagar can go back to a difficult situation knowing she has been “seen by God”?

Read 1 Samuel 1:4-11 & Ruth 1:3-5, 19-21. God “finds” a desperate Hagar in the dessert and provides a Word of encouragement. Look up two similar stories of women in the Old Testament who faced similar situations. What do they have in common? What is the connection between “waiting” and “faith”?

Read Matthew 10:28-31. What is the connection between Jesus teaching on anxiety to “El Roi” in Genesis 16? God sees and God cares . . . How does this help us live in the midst of difficult situations?



Life Change

**Prayer Time . . . Take some time to pray for one another. Pray for people who might feel “invisible” and make a commitment to encourage them this week.