

The God Who Sees Me

Genesis 16
May 8, 2022

2 PETER

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

This week we're taking a little break from our 2 Peter series to talk about a story in the Old Testament involving a female slave named Hagar. Hagar was the slave of Sarai and mother of Ishmael. While Hagar is fleeing from Sarai, she has an encounter with the angel of the Lord that sets her in the right direction.

1. Start with prayer and then read through Genesis 16.
2. Because Sarai was unable to bear children, she was considered "less than" and not valued in her culture. Have you ever felt like you didn't measure up to the people around you based on the standards of the culture? Talk about how that feels. How do you think it impacted Sarai?
3. Sarai decided to follow the model of the culture and take matters into her own hands when it came to giving her husband a child. Can you think of a situation where you decided to take matters into your own hands instead of trusting God? How did it turn out? What lessons did you learn?
4. Hagar flees from Sarai and has an encounter with the angel of the Lord. He is the first to call Hagar by her name and treat her with dignity in this story. Describe what it feels like when someone knows your name, calls you by name, and treats you with dignity. How would this have been a healing experience for Hagar?
5. The angel of the Lord asks Hagar two questions: Where have you come from and where are you going? While these questions could easily be answered at surface level, we want to invite you to look deeper.
 - *Where have you come from?* What are you running from? What important events have happened in your life that have defined you (in negative or positive ways)? Why is it important to identify where you have come from?
 - *Where are you going?* Where do you think you should be going in your life? Who gets to decide the answer to this question? How often do you consult God as you seek to answer this question?
6. The angel tells Hagar that God has heard her misery and then Hagar calls God, "The One who sees me". What is the significance of being heard and seen by God in your life? How does that change the way you hear and see God?