

'You are a God who sees me!'

Spring named: **"The well of the Living One who sees me"**

Genesis 16:1-12; 21:9-21

God sees your unforeseen **EXPERIENCES** Gen 16:1-6

Hagar, an Egyptian maid, becomes a **SURROGATE** mother vs. 2-4

Hagar, even after obeying, is **MISTREATED** vs. 5-6

God sees your unanticipated **GROWTH PLAN** Gen. 16:7-12

Hagar's **CHARACTER** is being refined vs. 7-9

Hagar's child will bring both **GOOD** and **DIFFICULTY** vs. 10-12

God sees your unpredicted **PATH** Gen. 21:9-14

Ishmael stirs up **TROUBLE** vs. 9-11

Hagar is **OSTRACIZED** vs. 12-14

God sees your unexpected **NEEDS** Gen 21:15-21

Your needs in the **MOMENT** vs. 15-19

Your needs for a **FUTURE** vs. 20-21

Life Group Discussion Questions – May 14, 2023

Genesis 21:17-18 "God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

DISCOVER (read Genesis 16; 21:1-21)

1. How have you ever tried to shortcut God's will by "taking matters into your own hand"? What were the results? Share with your group about a time you waited on God's timing. What lessons did you learn?
2. Moms do much of their work away from the limelight. Often their work and care are unseen and unheard. Is this a universal inclination? Explain. Why is it important to value their unseen efforts? How can valuing moms today impact future generations?
3. What makes mothering glorious? What makes it difficult? How is a mother's character refined as they raise children?

EXPLORE

1. What wrong did Sarai believe had been done to her?
2. We are a culture that pursues immediate gratification on many levels. So, it goes "across the grain" to wait on the Lord. We see Him as slow to keep His promises. Weak faith grows impatience and tries to make something happen while strong faith waits. How can you develop strong faith? (see James 1:2-18)
3. Why was Hagar sent back to Abram and Sarai? Read Genesis 12:3. Look for an insight that correlates Hagar's submission to the house of Abram and her future blessing. Have you ever had to trust the Lord in moments of submission to authority?
4. In Genesis 16:9, God tells Hagar to return and submit to Sarai's authority. What does this tell you about God's heart for the oppressed? What does it tell you about God's thoughts on authority?
5. In Genesis 21:12, God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah. Had listening to Sarah been a problem for Abraham? What makes you a good listener? What makes you a poor one? Are you a good listener with some and not for others? Why do you think that is?

EXPERIENCE

1. A young mom says to you, "You haven't gone through what I'm dealing with, so you don't understand." She may be trying to disqualify you from speaking into her life. How should you respond?
2. Has God foreshown you something in your life, something that you did not see coming? Where were you spiritually that convinced you that He was moving on your behalf? Has your capacity increased as a result? Why or why not?
3. If Sarah had trusted God's promise completely, would our world have been different today? How so? Why is this story so pivotal in what's happening in global current events?

PRAY

Pray... Father God, it is so easy to lose privilege by falling out of favor and seeing others as our usurpers. Help me to truly know that You see my tears and that I would be at peace knowing Your ways are not my ways; that I would easily laugh, that I would easily love, that I would be a wellspring of abundant life in You, especially when I cannot see what's in store for me. Thank You that by Your grace, You draw near and that You will never forsake me. Amen.