

## INTRO

- Name a book you'd like to read or a Netflix show you'd like to watch

This series is about posturing our hearts towards the goodness and greatness of our God. In each biblical encounter, there is a particular name and characteristic of God that is revealed in the encounter. This week, we are introduced to **El Roi — The Lord Who Sees**.

## READ

Genesis 16:-1-15

## REFLECT &amp; RESPOND

"In one short story, we find unbelief, unfaithfulness, sexual exploitation, marital strife, jealousy, covetousness, and abuse. This story is a profound reminder of the depravity of humanity." — William Murrell Dean of Academics Every Nation Seminary

- Though we face the brokenness of mankind as we read the story of Sarai, Abram, Hagar and Ishmael, we also encounter "The Lord Who Sees" as Hagar experiences God's care and compassion.

*Qu: With specific reference to Sarai, Abram or Hagar, share one way this story reminds you that God comes to us based on his grace and compassion not our goodness or our performance? How does this bring hope?*

- The Angel of the Lord pursued Hagar into the wilderness. He saw her distress, comforted her, and gave her hope for her future. "You shall call his (her son) name Ishmael (meaning "God hears") because the Lord has listened to your affliction." Hagar realized she had been seen and heard by God. Her response: "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

2020 has been likened to a wilderness experience for many.

*Qu: Has there been any specific way(s) you have felt seen by God or that you have seen him in our current "wilderness"?*

- Hagar's circumstances did not change. Yet, when Hagar encountered God as "El Roi — The Lord Who Sees" she returned to Abram and Sarai and faced the future with a new-found strength and hope.

*Qu: As we move into our time of prayer, is there a circumstance or situation you are facing for which you need that strength and hope?*

## PRAY

- Pray for one another to see God's goodness and greatness afresh
- Pray that we should be anchored in this knowledge of God
- Pray for faith & strength to face the days ahead