

## INTRO

- Think of a time when someone noticed you, encouraged you, or showed kindness when you weren't expecting it. What happened, and why did it matter to you?

As we continue exploring the life of Abraham, Genesis 16 shifts our attention to Hagar. Overlooked and even abused by those around her, she encounters the God who sees, hears, and cares for those who feel forgotten. Her story reveals God's heart for the vulnerable and points us to Jesus, who was forsaken so that we would never be abandoned.

## READ

Genesis 16:1-15  
Matthew 27:45-46

## REFLECT

### 1. God sees those who feel forgotten.

Hagar was an Egyptian slave, a foreigner, a woman with little power or influence. She was used, mistreated, and ultimately found herself alone in the wilderness. Yet the Angel of the Lord sought her out and met her there. He found her in the wilderness. Before Hagar cried out, before she found her way back, God saw her and came looking for her. Hagar responded by calling God *El Roi*—"the God who sees me."

*Qu: Why do you think it mattered that God sought out Hagar in the wilderness? Qu: Have you ever experienced a season where you felt unseen, overlooked, or forgotten?*

### 2. God hears our distress.

The Angel tells Hagar to name her son Ishmael, which means "God hears." The text gives no indication that Hagar prayed a formal prayer, yet God heard her affliction and responded with compassion.

*Qu: What does this reveal about God's awareness of our pain? Qu: Why is it significant that God heard Hagar before she asked for help?*

## 3. God Secures Our Future

Many of us feel pressure to make a name for ourselves—prove our worth, build something significant, live up to expectations. Hagar's story reminds us that before we make a name for ourselves, we are already known by God. Hagar's circumstances did not immediately change, but God met her with His presence and gave her direction for the next step. He gave her a promise about her future and the future of her son — security resting in God's faithfulness.

*Qu: What pressures do people face today to prove themselves or create a meaningful life story? Qu: Which of these pressures do you relate to most?*

## RESPOND

Hagar's story ultimately points us to Jesus. At the cross, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Hagar was a forsaken one, yet at the cross, Jesus became the truly Forsaken One.

### This is the great exchange of the gospel

- Jesus was forsaken so that we could be forgiven
- cast out so that we could be brought in
- rejected so that we could be accepted

The God who sees us also sends us. There are people in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, and even in our church who feel unseen, forgotten, or alone.

*Qu: Who in your life might be feeling unseen, forgotten, or alone? Qu: How could God use you this week to help them experience the love of Jesus and the reality that they are seen by Him?*

## PRAY

- Pray for one another that we remember we are seen and secure in God. Anything specific?
- Pray for ENGTA to be a place where strangers become family, newcomers are noticed, the

## **GOD'S STORY THROUGH ABRAHAM**

lonely and forsaken are welcomed, and where people encounter the God who sees them. What's your part in this?

## ***Wk 7: The God Who Sees***