

Message-based Study

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

Describe a time in your life when you felt unnoticed. What emotions did this experience evoke in you?

Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

EL ROI: "The God Who Sees" God is ever-present and aware of all things.

A "THEOLOGY OF SEEING"

What do the following verses tell us God sees?

Matthew 10:29-31

Matthew 6:3-4

Deuteronomy 12:28

II Chronicles 16:9

Psalm 34:15

By studying the story of Hagar you will come to understand that God sees you.

1. GOD SEES YOU IN YOUR PAINFUL SITUATION

Abraham and Sarah were unable to conceive a child so they adopted a culturally accepted practice and took matters into their own hands. It went badly. Read Genesis 16:1-6 and see how this unfolded. What did Hagar flee from?

In your life, is there a painful situation you are fleeing from or are tempted to flee from? Briefly describe it.

Read Genesis 16:7-8. God meets Hagar there in the wilderness, sending an angel to help her. He asks, "Where have you come from, and where are you going?" Regarding the difficulty in your life that you noted above, how would you answer that same question?

In the following verses, the angel gives her direction and gives her a promise. Read Genesis 16:9-13. Spend a moment in prayer, asking the Lord for direction and His promises regarding your situation.

2. GOD SEES YOU IN YOUR IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION

Trouble was brewing as Ishmael (the child of Hagar) and Isaac (the child of Sarah) were growing up in the same home. Read Genesis 21:8-16. What emotions would Hagar have felt?

Hagar faced what she believed to be an impossible situation. What is your impossible situation?

Maybe, like Hagar, you've "left it under the bush" because you can't stand to look at your impossible situation any more. Read Genesis 21:17-20 and see what happened when Hagar got to this point. Summarize what God did for them.

List any ways God has provided for you in your impossible situation.

3. JESUS as EL ROI

Like God the Father, Jesus sees and is aware. He was moved with compassion when He saw the needs of people. In response, He taught (Matthew 5:1-2), prayed (Matthew 9:36-38), healed (Matthew 14:14), and fed them (Matthew 14:15). Which of these do you need Jesus to do for you?

Commitment

Spend a moment in prayer, personalizing these thoughts:

God sees you in your pain,
in your impossibility,
is moved with compassion,
watches over you,
meets you there.

Knowing that our Lord is "The God Who Sees", what is one step you are prompted to take?

I will _____.

 **Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.**

Painful, seemingly impossible situations are something we all struggle with. **Listen with care** to others this week, working to understand what their unique trials are, keeping an eye out for a way you can share the hope of Jesus.