

Week THREE

FEAR NOT

DAY FIVE

God Sees Me

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children^[a] by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. 4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. 5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" 6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. 7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. 12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell

over against all his kinsmen.” 13 So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.” 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. 15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Genesis 16:1-15

9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. 10 So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” 11 And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. 13 And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.” 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. 15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18 Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. 20 And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow.

Genesis 21:9-20

It was there at the spring that Hagar met God through His angel. She had fled her home because she felt betrayed, alone, and even invisible. But at the spring, she knew she was seen by God Himself. He promised Hagar that her son would be the leader of a great multitude; His favor rested upon her. In her darkest moment of isolation, God saw her. In the midst of pain, confusion, and despair, God spoke to her, gave her direction, and assured her of a future. He also told her she needed to return to Sarah. Yes, Sarah had wronged her. But two wrongs do not make a right; and Hagar needed to return and submit herself to her master and mistress. Years later, Hagar finds herself cast into the desert, this time with her son who is dying of thirst. Once more, the Lord sees her—He values her—providing her and her son a well full of water.

No matter where we are in life—whether in a wilderness of despair, facing rejection, or experiencing loneliness—God sees us. He knows our pain, our struggles, and our heartaches. Hagar, despite being a servant, was given a purpose and a promise by God. She was not discarded or overlooked but was called to be the mother of one who would become the leader of a mighty nation. God can bring purpose even out of situations that seem hopeless. When God instructed Hagar to return to Sarah and submit to her, He didn't promise an easy journey, but He did promise to bless her and her descendants. Sometimes, God's call to us is not to escape from difficult situations, but to trust Him in them. God's promises are not always about removing pain but walking with us through it.

Follow the SHINE Time devotional tool to dive deeper into today's scripture!

S

Seek the Lord in prayer.

H

Highlight a characteristic of God.

I

Identify a truth about yourself or people.

N

Notice what the Holy Spirit is communicating to you.

E

Engage in the next action step. Think of a way to respond in obedience to what God has revealed to you today.