

# WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 May 8, 2022  
"Sarah and Hagar"



### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for seeing us, hearing us, and being with us in those seasons when we walk through the wilderness. Thank you for promising better days ahead even when we don't see a way out. Lord, help us to see the people around us that are hurting and use us to bless them, encourage them, and help them. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Genesis 16:7-10, 13-14 (NIV)

*<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"*

*"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.*

*<sup>9</sup>Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." <sup>10</sup>The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."*

*<sup>13</sup>She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." <sup>14</sup>That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.*

#### Genesis 21:10, 15-20 (NIV)

*<sup>10</sup>and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."*

*<sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup>Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.*

*<sup>17</sup>God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. <sup>18</sup>Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."*

*<sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.*

*<sup>20</sup>God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.*

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## INTRODUCTION

In this series, we are looking at the stories of women in scripture in order to learn a little bit about our own stories. These Biblical stories teach us something about who we are and who God is. Today we turn our attention to the story of Sarah and Hagar which is found in the book of Genesis. But what does that tell us about our story and who God is?

The story of Sarah and Hagar reminds us that when we walk through the wilderness like Sarah, God sees us, God hears us and God sends help through people. With God, there is always a future with hope even if we can't see it. So we put our trust in him. The story also reminds us that we are called to be God's angels or messengers. So we pay attention to those in need around us and we become the hands, feet and voice of God.

## QUESTIONS

1. What can make it hard for you to keep focused on the truth that God's faithful love lasts forever? In what practical ways can you build daily reminders that God's faithful love lasts forever into your life?
2. In Genesis 16:5 Sarah tells Abraham *"You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."* Have you ever felt like blaming the results of your own choices or actions on someone else? What has helped you to take responsibility for the things you do, so that you do not allow blaming to further damage relationships?
3. God's messenger (angel) met Hagar in the desert. In what ways has God sent messengers into your life? What has helped you to move your belief that God sees you from your intellect to your heart, to deeper inner reality?
4. Abraham and Sarah waited a long time to have child but God's promise proved reliable. At times we don't see God's promises realized in this life at all, but wait for eternity. When have you had to wait longer than you wished for a divine promise to come true? Are there promises you are still waiting for? What helps you to hold onto faith and trust as you wait?
5. Hagar was divorced, rejected, and abandoned with her son, Ishmael. Their chances of survival were minimal—except for God's care and provision. But God intervened and "opened her eyes" so that they could find water. God still provides today, and one of the ways he often provides is through people like us. How can you join God and help to "provide" for your friends/family? Your church family? Your community? Your world?

## FINAL APPLICATION

Pay attention to people around you this week and see where you can be a messenger from God to give help or encouragement.