



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

10 MAY 2026

10 MAY SERMON

WHO AM I

THE STORY OF HAGAR

SIS CYNTHIA MATHEW

Ice Breaker Question: share about a time when someone remembered something specific about you (your name, a detail about your life, etc.) that made you feel seen and valued.

Sermon Summary

This message explores the story of Hagar, an Egyptian slave who was used, mistreated, and overlooked by people—but was deeply seen, known, and valued by God. Through her wilderness encounter with "El Roi" (the God who sees), we discover that every person matters to God. He is mindful of us, attentive to our circumstances, tender toward us, and trustworthy in His promises.

Key Scripture

Genesis 16:13 - "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.'"

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Story

1. What stood out to you most about Hagar's story? How would you describe her situation before God met her in the wilderness?
2. Why do you think God found Hagar even though she wasn't part of the covenant line or looking for Him?
3. God told Hagar to return to a difficult situation with Sarai. How do you reconcile God's love and care with Him sometimes asking us to return to hard circumstances?

Personal Reflection

4. Have you ever felt invisible, overlooked, or like you didn't matter? How does Hagar's story speak to that experience?
5. The sermon highlighted that God is:
 - o **Mindful** of us (He thinks about us)
 - o **Attentive** to us (He knows every detail)
 - o **Tender** toward us (He comforts like a mother)
 - o **Trustworthy** (He keeps His promises)
 - o **ER : El Roi** (The God who sees)

Which of these characteristics do you most need to be reminded of right now? Why?
6. Sis Cynthia shared about struggling with unforgiveness until God gave her an assurance through Scripture. Have you experienced a time when God gave you a specific promise or word that helped you obey Him in a difficult situation?

Going Deeper

7. Hagar named God "El Roi"—the God who sees. What would you name God based on how He has shown up in your life?
8. In Genesis 21, Hagar forgot God's previous faithfulness when she faced another crisis. Why do you think we forget God's past goodness? How can we remember better?
9. The sermon mentioned that sometimes we fail each other, but God never fails. How does this truth comfort you? Can you share an example?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **You matter to God** - not because of your position, performance, or perfection, but simply because you are His creation
- ✓ **God sees everything** - your pain, your fears, your struggles, even what you've never told anyone
- ✓ **God doesn't just see problems, He provides promises** - He gives us hope and assurance to face difficult situations
- ✓ **Encountering God changes everything** - it's not just head knowledge but a heart encounter that transforms us
- ✓ **God pursues us even when we're not looking for Him** - He found Hagar; He finds us

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of these to practice this week:

1. **Remember and Record:** Write down 3-5 ways God has shown up for you in the past. When you face difficulties this week, review this list to remember His faithfulness.
2. **El Roi Prayer Practice:** Each day, talk to God as "the One who sees" - tell Him about something you're going through that you feel no one else sees or understands.
3. **Mother's Day Extension:** Whether you're a mother or not, reach out to encourage someone who has "mothered" you spiritually or naturally. Let them know they matter.
4. **Wilderness Encounter:** Set aside 30 minutes this week to be alone with God. Bring your burdens, your questions, your pain—and ask Him to meet you as El Roi.

Prayer Time

Pray together as a group:

- For those who feel invisible, overlooked, or like they don't matter
- For mothers and spiritual mothers in the group
- For those facing difficult situations they feel they can't escape
- For fresh encounters with El Roi—the God who sees
- For the faith to trust God's promises even when circumstances are hard

Specific prayer focus: Ask if anyone needs prayer for a specific "wilderness" they're in right now. Gather around them and pray that they would encounter God in a powerful way.

Closing Thought

"To the world, you may be one person. But to God, you are the world. You matter to Him. He sees you. He knows your name. He knows your story. And He is with you."