

CALL UPON HIS NAME

WEEK 1: EL ROI - THE GOD WHO SEES ME

DAY 1: READ GENESIS 12:1-9

In this passage, we see God's direct promise to Abram. It's bold and big, yet Abram hears God and believes. In this passage, Abram responds to God in two ways; he went "as the Lord had told him" and along the way, made an altar to the Lord and praised Him. When have you felt, heard or sensed the Lord's presence or voice in your life? Explain. How did you respond? If that's a strange question, take extra time throughout this week to listen for God and ponder Him. As God makes His presence known to you, praise and thank Him. Share your praise and what you learn or hear with others around you.

DAY 2: READ GENESIS 15

Again, in verse 1, the word of the Lord comes to Abram. What is Abram's initial response? When have we, like Abram, heard God's voice or felt direction from the Holy Spirit, only to tell Him His promises don't make sense or don't line up with the way things are. Think of a specific time in your life when you were sure the Lord spoke to you, but you didn't understand how, when or why. What were your reasons for questioning Him at the time? Did you understand later? What changed? How did the Lord act? What did you learn? Maybe you're still waiting on God. On a deeper level, do you trust His promises or have you subconsciously already settled in for disappointment?

DAY 3: READ GENESIS 16

This passage is very interesting. Just like us today, each person in this passage found themselves buried in sin and suffering from the sins of others. Abram and Sarai acted out of impatience (and even human desperation) for the Lord's promise. Hagar mistreated Sarai; Sarai mistreated Hagar. As sinful people, we can put ourselves in any of their places, both on the receiving and dealing ends. How does the Lord speak to Hagar, a pregnant slave on the run? Why would Hagar respond by naming God "El Roi," the God who sees me? Hagar's experience in a sinful world and encounter with the Lord's promises prompted the name. How have you seen God see you in your own life? Explain. Share with others.



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DAY 4: READ GENESIS 17

When Abram is ninety-nine years old, he once again sees the Lord. How does this line up with God's previous promises to Abram? How does Abram's encounter with God compare with Hagar's? Could Abram also describe God as El Roi, the God who sees me? Explain. How does Abram respond to God's promise?

DAY 5: READ GENESIS 17:18-22, GENESIS 21:1-20

In Genesis 17:18-22, we are again directly reminded of God's promise to Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael. After the birth of Isaac, a conflicted Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael out. Hagar and Ishmael wander through the desert of Beersheba. Now out of water, Hagar leaves her son under some shade in grief, certain they will both die. This is the same Hagar who proclaimed God sees her. Put yourself in her situation. How would you feel? Does God still see you? What about His repeated promises to you, even if you've seen them come true in the past? What about now? How does the Lord meet her in her time of profound distress? Does her name for Him still ring true?

DAY 6: READ PSALM 69

This is a psalm of David, but what similarities do you see in Hagar's journey? Perhaps you're going through a hard, confusing time and are uncertain of God's care, concern or promises to you. Take time today to cry out to God. Pray and tell Him your worries, your feelings, your doubts. Now take time to remember who He's been to you in the past. Thank Him and praise Him for it and expect Him in the future.

DAY 7: READ LUKE 13:10-13, HEBREWS 4:13-16

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Jesus, as the Son of God, is our salvation and one eternal hope. He has seen all of us and, in spite of our sinfulness and the horrible death we thrust upon Him, has chosen to love us with His blood. Be assured of His love today and confident in His power and care for you and all those around you. Who around you needs to be reminded of God's watchful care and power to heal today? Don't hesitate.