

5-Day Devotional Guide

Based on Genesis 16: God Who Sees Me

Day 1: When We Run Ahead of God

Reading: Genesis 16:1-4; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: Sarai and Abram had a genuine promise from God. What they lacked was patience to trust his timing. Rather than seeking the Lord, they sought a solution from the surrounding culture. The result was pain, conflict, and lasting consequences. How often do we do the same? We believe God's promises in principle but scramble to fulfill them in practice. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to lean not on our own understanding but to acknowledge God in all our ways, trusting that he will direct our paths. Today, surrender your timeline to the one who holds all time.

Reflection Question: Is there an area of your life where you are trying to accomplish God's purposes through your own strength rather than his?

Practical Application: Identify one situation this week where you have been leaning on your own plan. Write it down, bring it before God in prayer, and ask him to redirect your steps according to his will and his timing.

Day 2: The Danger of Pride in Seasons of Blessing

Reading: Genesis 16:4-6; Philippians 2:3-4

Devotional: When Hagar conceived, something shifted in her heart. She began to look at Sarai with contempt, viewing her own blessing as evidence of greater favor. But a blessing received in pride quickly becomes a source of destruction. Philippians 2:3-4 calls us to consider others as more significant than ourselves, not from a place of self-deprecation, but from genuine humility rooted in the character of Christ. Whatever God has entrusted to you, whether a gift, a season of fruitfulness, or a position of influence, it is meant to serve others, not elevate yourself above them.

Reflection Question: Has a recent blessing caused you to subtly look down on someone else or feel more spiritually significant than those around you?

Practical Application: Choose one person in your life who may be in a difficult season. Reach out to them this week with a specific word of encouragement, and pray for them by name, asking God to bless them in the very area where you feel blessed.

Day 3: God Hears Your Affliction

Reading: Genesis 16:7-11; Psalm 56:8

Devotional: Hagar was alone in the wilderness, used and discarded, with nowhere to turn. Yet the angel of the Lord found her. He called her by name. He asked where she had come from and where she was going. He already knew the answers, but he wanted her to know that she was seen and heard. Psalm 56:8 tells us that God keeps count of every tossing and sleepless night, that he collects every tear. The name Ishmael, meaning God hears, became a permanent testimony to this truth. Whatever wilderness you are in today, you are not invisible. God hears your cries.

Reflection Question: What specific pain or grief have you been carrying that you have not yet honestly brought before God in prayer?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today in a quiet place. Speak your specific hurt aloud to God. Name it plainly. Then sit in silence for a few minutes, receiving the truth that he has already heard you and that your tears are not forgotten.

Day 4: El Roi—The God Who Sees You

Reading: Genesis 16:13-14; John 4:13-14

Devotional: In a moment of profound encounter, Hagar gave God a name no one had ever spoken before: El Roi, the God who sees me. She was not a matriarch. She was not a person of standing. She was a servant, alone, broken, and fleeing. Yet God saw her fully, not her failures, not her pride, but her suffering and her need. The well she found, Beer-Lahai-Roi, became a monument to this truth. Jesus, the living water, meets people in their wilderness moments just as he met the woman at the well in John 4. He sees you completely and loves you still.

Reflection Question: Do you truly believe that God sees you personally, not just humanity in general, but you specifically in your current circumstances?

Practical Application: Write the name El Roi somewhere visible this week, on a notecard, your mirror, or your phone. Each time you see it, pause and declare aloud, "God sees me." Let that truth begin to replace fear, shame, or the feeling of abandonment.

Day 5: Run Toward God, Not Away

Reading: Genesis 16:9; Luke 19:10; Psalm 46:1

Devotional: God's instruction to Hagar was simple but profound: return and submit. He was not calling her back to abuse. He was calling her back to the place where his

purposes would be fulfilled in her life. Running from pain is instinctive, but running to God is transformative. Psalm 46:1 declares that God is a very present help in times of trouble. Luke 19:10 reveals the heart of Christ as one who seeks and saves the lost, including those who have wandered from community, from church, or from faith. Like the fawn that ran toward the hunter, your helplessness is an appeal to his infinite strength.

Reflection Question: Is there something you have been running from, whether a relationship, a community, a calling, or God himself, that he may be asking you to return to with a humbled heart?

Practical Application: Take one concrete step today toward returning. Send a message to someone you have distanced yourself from. Walk back through the doors of your church. Recommit to a ministry you stepped away from. Trust that God will meet you in the returning, just as he met Hagar in the wilderness.