

AWESOME GOD

Group Guide: Week 3

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Do you like being at the center of attention? Why or why not?
- Has there ever been a time you were grateful someone paid close attention to you?

READ & DISCUSS UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This is the third week in our *Awesome God* series, where we'll be looking at some of the ways God describes Himself to His people. As we approach the year ahead in the faith that God is beside us, we want to know more about the God who we're asking to be with us!

This week we'll be encountering God alongside Hagar, a woman who humans overlooked but who God saw and cared for. Hagar's story wasn't an easy one: she was left homeless in the wilderness because of injustice, blindness, and cruelty. But God did for Hagar what He did for His Son, and what He does for each of us: He gave her His full attention, gave her pain a purpose, and gave her blessing in the middle of what seemed to be a wilderness. With Hagar, let's discover once again that *our God is a God who sees*.

READ	DISCUSS
Genesis 16:1-6	Hagar is sent out from her home because of the foolishness and cruelty—in other words, the <i>blindness</i> —of Abram and Sarai. How often do we play the role of Abram and Sarai in our own lives, overlooking the most vulnerable! And yet each of us knows how much it hurts to be Hagar, to be over-looked and under-cared for. When in your own life have you played one of those two roles? What does God have to say about that situation?
Genesis 16:7-9	God doesn't take away Hagar's pain. This seems cruel to us; but God knows that our pain is often the source of our greatest fruitfulness and blessing. Hagar is being sent back to the people of God, to forgive them and continue to serve them even though they treated her blindly. She is, in other words, acting like Christ.
Genesis 16:10-16	And yet God doesn't leave Hagar to do her task without hope. He gives her a promise—which not only tells her that she is suffering for a purpose, but also that she <i>is not suffering alone</i> . Hers is a God who sees! Do you feel seen by God? Why or why not?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Read Genesis 16:13. Speak Hagar's words to God. If you feel as though you *haven't* seen the One who looks after you, ask that He would reveal Himself to you. Be honest with God about your situation—if you're in the wilderness, let him know! Ask that God would give you a vision of Him, so that you can see and look after others as He sees and looks after them. Thank Him that He is a God who sees.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?