Preschool–Grade 6

# Hagar and the God Who Sees

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

**Main point:** God sees me and God hears me, even when I feel alone, and He provides what I need.
**Bible passage:** Genesis 16:6–13 and Genesis 21:14–20. Read them before class.
**Memory verse:** "And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?" *Genesis 16:13 (KJV)*
**You need:** a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** write the memory verse on the board.

## 1. Opening game: Whisper Across the Room (5–10 minutes)

Send one child to the far side of the room. That child whispers a word from the story (well, water, bottle, wilderness). The class tries to guess it. Then let the child say it a little louder until someone hears. Say: "We can't always hear a whisper. But when Hagar and her boy were in the wilderness, the Bible says, 'God heard the voice of the lad where he is.'"

## 2. Bible story: The God Who Sees (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 16. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

**Hagar runs away.** Hagar was an Egyptian **handmaid**, a servant woman, who belonged to Sarai, Abram's wife (16:1). **Look up Genesis 16:6. Dealt hardly** means treated her harshly. Hagar ran away.

**God finds her. Look up Genesis 16:7–8.** A **fountain** is a spring of water. **Whence** means from where; **whither** means to where. The angel of the LORD knew her name and asked where she was going. He told her to go back and **submit**, to obey Sarai (16:9). He promised her many children's children, more than anyone could count (16:10).

**"Thou God seest me." Look up Genesis 16:11. Affliction** means trouble and sadness. God gave the baby's name before he was born, because the LORD had heard. **Look up Genesis 16:13.** Hagar knew it was the LORD who had spoken to her. She called Him "Thou God seest me," the God who sees me. She was amazed that here, in the wilderness, she had met the God who sees her. Later Hagar bare Abram a son, Ishmael (16:15).


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

**Sent away.** Years later Abraham (Abram's new name, Genesis 17:5) rose up early in the morning and sent Hagar and the child away with bread and a **bottle** of water, a skin bag for water, on her shoulder (21:14). They **wandered**, walked with no road to follow, in the wilderness of **Beer-sheba**.

**The water is spent. Look up Genesis 21:15–16. Spent** means used up. Hagar put the lad under a shrub and sat down about as far away as an arrow can fly (a **bowshot**), because she was afraid he would die, and she could not bear to watch. She cried.

**God hears. Look up Genesis 21:17. What aileth thee** means what is wrong with you. God heard the lad "where he is": right there under the shrub. **Look up Genesis 21:18.** God promised to make the lad a great nation.

**God provides. Look up Genesis 21:19.** God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well of water. She filled the bottle and gave the lad a drink. "God was with the lad" as he grew, and he became an **archer**, a man who shoots with a bow (21:20).

## 3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

**Thinking questions** (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Hagar ran away into the wilderness, but God found her there (16:7). Is there anywhere you could go that God could not see you (Psalm 139:7)?
2. The angel called her by name (16:8). How does it feel when someone remembers your name? What does it tell us that God knows yours?
3. Hagar named God "Thou God seest me" (16:13). When is it good news that God sees you?
4. "God heard the voice of the lad where he is" (21:17). What can you tell God when you are sad or afraid?
5. The well was there, but Hagar didn't see it until God opened her eyes (21:19). How does God help us see what He has given us?

**Recall questions**

1. What was the boy's name? *(Ishmael, Genesis 16:11)*
2. What did Abraham give Hagar? *(Bread and a bottle of water, 21:14)*
3. What did the lad become when he grew up? *(An archer, 21:20)*

## 4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **spake** means spoke; **thou** means you; **seest** means see; **seeth** means sees. "Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?" means Hagar was amazed: "Here in the wilderness, I have looked on the God who sees me!" Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God saw Hagar in the wilderness and heard the lad under the shrub. God sees you and hears you too, and He loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*
**This week:** each night, tell God one thing that made you sad or afraid that day. Then say, "Thou God seest me."

## 6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Genesis 16:7: Where did the angel of the LORD find Hagar? *(By a fountain of water in the wilderness, in the way to Shur)*
2. Genesis 16:8: What did Hagar say she was doing? *("I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai")*
3. Genesis 16:11: Why was the baby named Ishmael? *("Because the LORD hath heard thy affliction")*
4. Genesis 16:13: What did Hagar call the LORD? *("Thou God seest me")*
5. Genesis 21:14: What did Abraham put on Hagar's shoulder? *(Bread and a bottle of water)*
6. Genesis 21:17: Whose voice did God hear? *(The voice of the lad)*
7. Genesis 21:19: What did Hagar see when God opened her eyes? *(A well of water)*
8. Psalm 34:15: What are the LORD's ears open to? *(Their cry)*

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You are the God who sees us. You heard the lad in the wilderness, and You hear us when we pray. Help us trust You when we feel alone, and open our eyes to see how You provide. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**If a child asks why Hagar was sent away:** Genesis 21:9–13 tells it. Sarah asked Abraham to send them away, it grieved Abraham, and God told him He would make a nation of the lad too (21:13). God kept that promise (21:18, 21:20).


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post