Preschool–Grade 6

Hagar and the God Who Sees

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God sees me, and God hears me.
Bible passage: Genesis 16 and 21. Read Genesis 16:6–13 and Genesis 21:14–20 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Thou God seest me" *Genesis 16:13 (KJV)*. That means "You are the God who sees me."
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 16 and Genesis 21.

1. Opening game: I See You! (5 minutes)

Kids hide their faces behind their hands. Walk around and say, "I see you, (name)!" and that child uncovers their face and smiles. Do it for every child. Say: "Even when we hide, God sees us! Today we will hear a true story about a woman named Hagar. God saw her, and God heard her boy."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 16. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Hagar ran away into the wilderness (Genesis 16:6). *(Run in place.)*
She was all alone (16:7). *(Hug yourself.)*
The angel of the LORD found her by some water (16:7). *(Point: there!)*
God had heard her trouble (16:11). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
Hagar said, "Thou God seest me" (16:13). *(Point to your eyes, then to yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God sees me!"
Later, Hagar and her boy walked in the wilderness (21:14). *(Walk in place.)*
The water was all gone (21:15). *(Turn your hands over: empty!)*
Hagar cried. God heard the boy's voice (21:16–17). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
Say it with me: "God hears me!"
God opened Hagar's eyes (21:19). *(Open your eyes wide.)*
She saw a well of water (21:19). *(Point and smile.)*
She gave the boy a drink (21:19). *(Pretend to drink: gulp, gulp!)*

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who saw Hagar when she was alone? *(God, Genesis 16:13)*
2. Whose voice did God hear? *(The boy's, 21:17)*
3. What did Hagar see when God opened her eyes? *(A well of water, 21:19)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Hagar said, 'Thou God seest me.' That means 'You are the God who sees me!'" Teach the motion: point to your eyes on "Thou God seest," then point to yourself on "me." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Genesis 16:13" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: The Well of Water (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a round well with blue water in it. They can add a bottle full of water beside it. While they color, ask: "Who sees you? Who hears you?" Kids who finish early can play I See You! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, You see me.
You hear me when I pray.
Thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: play I See You! with lots of smiles so every child feels seen. Keep the sad part short and move quickly to the well of water. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Left out on purpose: why Hagar ran away and why Abraham sent her away (Genesis 16:2–6; 21:9–13) are told only in the older lessons.

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