Preschool–Grade 6

Hagar and the God Who Sees

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God sees me, and God hears me.
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" *Genesis 16:13 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 4 paper strips, a marker, tape, a blue paper circle to be the "well," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 4 paper strips (see part 4). Hide the blue paper "well" somewhere in the room where it is hard to spot. Put bookmarks in your Bible at Genesis 16:13 and Genesis 21:17.

1. Opening game: Find the Well (5 minutes)

Tell the kids a blue "well" is hidden in the room. They look for it without touching anything. If no one sees it, give hints: "It's up high," "It's near the door." When someone finds it, say: "It was there the whole time, but we couldn't see it! Today we will hear about a woman named Hagar. Her water was all gone, and God opened her eyes to see a well of water."

2. Bible story: The God Who Sees (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 16, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Hagar was a **maid**, a servant woman, who worked for **Sarai**, Abram's wife. Sarai **dealt hardly** with her, which means she was harsh with her. So Hagar ran away (Genesis 16:6).

Hagar was all alone in the **wilderness**, a dry, empty land. But the **angel of the LORD** found her by a **fountain** of water, a spring of water (16:7). He called her by name: "Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go?" That means, "Where did you come from, and where are you going?" (16:8). He told her to go back (16:9). He told her she would have a baby boy, and she should name him **Ishmael**, "because the LORD hath heard thy affliction" (16:11). **Affliction** means trouble and sadness. God had heard!

Read Genesis 16:13 from your Bible. Hagar said, "Thou God seest me." That means, "You are the God who sees me!" Later Hagar bare Abram a son, Ishmael (16:15).

The story continues: Years later, Abraham (God had changed Abram's name to Abraham) got up early in the morning. He gave Hagar some bread and a **bottle** of water, and he sent Hagar and the boy away (Genesis 21:14). A bottle then was a bag made of animal skin that held water. Hagar and her son walked and walked in the wilderness of **Beer-sheba** (21:14).

Then the water in the bottle was **spent**, which means all gone (21:15). Hagar put the boy under one of the **shrubs**, small bushes (21:15). She sat down a little way off, and she cried (21:16).

Read Genesis 21:17 from your Bible: "And God heard the voice of the lad." A **lad** is a boy. The angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven: "What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not" (21:17). That means, "What is wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid." He told her to lift up the boy and hold his hand (21:18).

Then "God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water" (21:19)! Hagar filled the bottle with water and gave the boy a drink (21:19). And God was with the boy as he grew up (21:20).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did the angel of the LORD find Hagar? *(By a fountain of water in the wilderness, Genesis 16:7)*
2. What did Hagar call the LORD? *("Thou God seest me," 16:13)*
3. What happened to the water in the bottle? *(It was all gone, 21:15)*
4. Whose voice did God hear? *(The lad's, the boy's voice, 21:17)*
5. What did Hagar see when God opened her eyes? *(A well of water, 21:19)*

4. Memory verse: Point and Say (5 minutes)

Tape the 4 strips up in order: *And she called the name of the LORD / that spake unto her, / Thou God / seest me. Genesis 16:13.* Explain the old words: **spake** means spoke; **thou** means you; **seest** means see. "Thou God seest me" means "You are the God who sees me." Read the verse together. When you say "seest me," everyone points to their eyes and then to themselves. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God saw Hagar when she was alone, and He heard the voice of the lad. God sees you and hears you too, and He loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when you feel sad or alone, remember "Thou God seest me," and talk to God. He hears you.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Hagar word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/hagar-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/hagar-craft), or **Find the Well Again:** one child hides the blue "well" while the others close their eyes. When the hider says, "Open your eyes!" everyone looks. The child who finds it says, "God opened her eyes!" Then ask one question from part 3 and pick the next hider.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You see us and You hear us, just like You saw Hagar and heard the boy. Help us talk to You when we are sad or afraid. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why Hagar had to leave: say Abraham sent her away (Genesis 21:14), but God promised to take care of the boy and make him a great nation (21:13, 21:18). God did not forget them.

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