



GROUP ICE BREAKER

Who was your best friend growing up and what made the friendship so close?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- I believe that while God is mysterious I can know and experience God.
- I will reflect on how I understand the trinitarian reality of God, and explore the extra resources if I have questions.
- I will explore how I experience God, Jesus and the Spirit in my life.
- I will reflect on 2 Corinthians 13:14 this week.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

We say something is personal when it involves a relationship, the presence of and interaction with another. God is not unapproachable or unreachable, but personal. He is involved daily in our lives out of his love for us, close in times of need, with a plan and purpose for us.

The story of Hagar serves as an example that God is involved in our daily lives. God met Hagar at the well. He went looking for her and found her, listened to her story. He counseled her to return to Abraham and Sarah. Although returning to the same conditions must not have been a pleasant thought, she still did as the Lord advised.

Without having the protection and provision through Abraham, she likely would have perished in the desert. God made her a promise and comforted her wounded spirit. God met her in her brokenness and extended such grace and mercy. In her moment of greatest need, El Roi- the God who sees, saw Hagar and she knew she was cared about and loved by God.

God is personal, even in our darkness. He has a plan and a purpose for each of us. He is good. He cares about us. He hears us, sees us, and knows where to find us.

KEY STATEMENT FOR THE WEEK

- I believe God is involved and cares about my daily life.

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Scripture memorization is a valuable spiritual practice in a Christ-centered life. Spend a few minutes each day committing this verse to memory.

- “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” Psalm 121:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why would someone resist knowing God personally? Did you resist knowing God at any point in your life?
2. What convinced you to enter a personal relationship with God? Briefly share your God story with the group.
3. On a scale of 1-5, 5 being the closest, where do you feel like you are in your journey to being as close to God as you desire? Share why you chose the number you did.
4. Read Psalm 139:1-16. From these verses, list the ways that God is personally involved in our lives. How does this impact your understanding or experience of a Personal God?
5. Read Genesis 16. How did God intervene with Hagar? Recall a time when you felt all alone, like no one cared. Did God become *El Roi*, “the God who sees me”, to you as He did to Hagar? Share your story with the group.
6. Share which of your friends knows you best and how it feels to be known. Which is more important to you, to know, or to be known?
7. Where or to whom do you first look for help when you need it? Read Psalm 121:1-4 together. What do we learn from these verses about where to look and what kind of help we receive?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I believe God has a purpose for my life.
- I believe pain and suffering can often bring me closer to God.
- I believe God is actively involved in my life.
- I believe God enables me to do things I could not or would otherwise do.

PRAYER

Prayer as a spiritual practice is our conversational life with God, where He hears from us and we hear from Him, with the intent of learning and leaning into His will for our lives. Let this prayer guide you over the next week.

God,

Thank you for your relentless pursuit of me. Thank you for showing up in the details of my life and extending compassion and grace. Help my faith grow, and my trust deepen, as you reveal more and more of yourself to me. Help me to fully submit all areas of my life and to wait patiently on you.

Amen

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Genesis 16
- Psalm 139:13-14
- Ephesians 2:10
- John 10:3
- Exodus 3:7
- Exodus 3:10

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

The following are suggested resources if you would like to continue your study of this topic.

- [Knowing God](#)
- [The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism](#)
- [The Power of Knowing God](#)
- [Knowing God's Names](#)
- [God Is Closer Than You Think](#)