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## The Wilderness: Finding God in Your Difficult Season

### Finding God When You Feel Invisible

#### Genesis 16:1–14 (HCSB)

Abram's wife Sarai had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar.<sup>2</sup> Sarai said to Abram, "Since the Lord has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said.<sup>3</sup> So Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar, her Egyptian slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife for him. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan 10 years.<sup>4</sup> He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she realized that she was pregnant, she treated her mistress with contempt.<sup>5</sup> Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for my suffering! I put my slave in your arms, and ever since she saw that she was pregnant, she has treated me with contempt. May the Lord judge between me and you."

<sup>6</sup> Abram replied to Sarai, "Here, your slave is in your hands; do whatever you want with her." Then Sarai mistreated her so much that she ran away from her.<sup>7</sup> The Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.<sup>8</sup> He said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She replied, "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai."<sup>9</sup> Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "You must go back to your mistress and submit to her mistreatment."

<sup>10</sup> The Angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, and they will be too many to count."<sup>11</sup> Then the Angel of the Lord said to her: You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard your cry of affliction.<sup>12</sup> This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; he will live at odds with all his brothers.<sup>13</sup> So she called the Lord who spoke to her: The God Who Sees, for she said, "In this place, have I actually seen the One who sees me?"<sup>14</sup> That is why she named the spring, "A Well of the Living One Who Sees Me." It is located between Kadesh and Bered.

## 1. WE ALL EVENTUALLY FIND OURSELVES IN A SEASON

- All of us have those \_\_\_\_\_ or seasons when things are difficult.
- The moment we find ourselves in the wilderness, we start looking for God.

## 2. GOD IS NOT \_\_\_\_\_ TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

- In the wilderness moments we feel alone and isolated.
- God never loses sight of us even when we feel \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3. GOD SEES US WHEN WE FEEL \_\_\_\_\_

- The wilderness is so enormous, it can make us feel small.
- You may think you do not \_\_\_\_\_ to God, but He proves otherwise.

## 4. NOT ONLY DOES GOD SEE US, BUT HE ALSO MAKES A \_\_\_\_\_ FOR US

- Where God guides, God \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's provision is greater than we can imagine.

## 5. WE NEVER FORGET THE MOMENT GOD \_\_\_\_\_ UP

- We always remember when God \_\_\_\_\_ us out of the wilderness.
- We should set up memorials or memory devices so that we do not forget.

### The Next Step:

When you find yourself in the wilderness and feeling like no one sees you, remember that God is watching over you.