**I Have Seen the One Who Sees Me**

**The Word**

Read together Genesis 16:1-16 and Genesis 21:1-21

**The Big Idea**

In the midst of a broken family situation and a vulnerable woman, God shows up to bring comfort and encouragement. Our God is a God who hears us and sees us no matter where we are, and he is present to bring his healing to our lives.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. The story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar is fraught with beautiful, painful, and dysfunctional dynamics, yet we see God showing up and acting in gracious and beautiful ways to bring hope and encouragement. How did Sunday’s message give you a new understanding or a deeper understanding of that ancient story?

2. What questions or issues from that story are still left unanswered for you?

3. Consider the beautiful truths about God that Hagar learns in the desert: The Lord hears her, and the Lord sees her. As you considered that aspect of our God, where in your life right now do you need to know and experience the God who sees and hears you.

4. Share a time in your life when someone heard you or saw you in a way that was meaningful and impactful.

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Genesis 16

A. Context: God’s promise to give Abraham descendants was slow in coming

B. Sarah (and Abraham) make a decision that is not based on faith in God (v. 1-3)

C. Hagar is a powerless victim in their decision

D. Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham exhibit dysfunctional and self-seeking behaviors that echo the dynamics of the original fall of Adam and Eve

E. Hagar is utterly helpless, hopeless, and insignificant in the desert.

F. God finds her, pursues her, and calls her by name

1. He promises descendants

2. Her son’s name, Ishmael, will be a reminder that he hears her

3. His son will not be a slave but will be wild and free and able to fight his own battles and stand up for himself.

G. Hagar is comforted by seeing the God who sees her, and she returns to Abraham and Sarah

II. Genesis 21

A. Isaac (= “laughter”) is finally born

B. Ishmael mocks (“Isaacs”) Isaac and Sarah and Abraham send her and Ishmael off

C. Once again, Hagar is helpless, hopeless, and insignificant in the desert.

D. God finds her, pursues her, and provides water in the desert

III. Genesis 25:7-10

Isaac (=Laughter) and Ishmael (=God hears) are present together to bury their father, Abraham

IV. Hagar and Israel

A. Just as Hagar was a slave, fled to the wilderness, and received God’s care and provision, so also the Israelites were slaves, fled to the wilderness, and received God’s care and provision

B. God offers Moses the same words he offered Hagar: “I have seen, I have heard the misery of my people” (Exodus 3:7)

V. Mother’s Day Encouragements

A. Mothers, you are a tangible picture of this God who sees us and hears us when we’re at our best and when we’re at our worst. When the world forgets us, you always see and hear us and offer comfort and encouragement

B. Women, wherever you find yourselves at this season of life, the Lord sees you and hears you (even when no one else sees, hears, and acknowledges your hard work, sacrifice, care, pain, etc.), and he is with you to offer his comfort and encouragement.