

## **THE GOD WHO SEES**

### **Genesis 16:1–16; Matthew 9:35–38**

Before God calls people to do anything, God sees them. In the wilderness, in the crowd, in the margins, God’s attention is an act of love. When Hagar flees from Sarai, her encounter with God is marked by this truth: God sees her. Being seen is not just a human need, but a divine gift.

#### **Day 1: Read Genesis 16:1–6.**

Before Hagar meets God in the wilderness, she has already been caught in a painful story shaped by power, conflict, and rejection. Scripture does not ignore the messiness of her situation.

Where do you see painful or complicated situations today where someone may feel unseen?

#### **Day 2: Read Genesis 16:7–10.**

The angel of the Lord finds Hagar in the desert. She may feel alone, but she is not abandoned.

Where in your life do you most need to remember that you are not alone or forgotten?

#### **Day 3: Read Genesis 16:11–12.**

The name Ishmael means “God hears.” Hagar’s son becomes a living reminder that her suffering has been heard by God.

What difference does it make to believe that pain, prayers, and stories others overlook are heard by God?

#### **Day 4: Read Genesis 16:13–16.**

Hagar is one of the first people in Scripture to give God a name: “The God who sees.”

How does knowing you are fully seen by God bring you comfort?

How does it challenge you?

#### **Day 5: Read Matthew 9:35–36.**

Jesus sees the crowds and has compassion on them. Compassion begins with attention.

When you see someone who seems harassed, helpless, overwhelmed, or overlooked, what helps you move from noticing to compassion?

#### **Day 6: Read Matthew 9:37–38.**

Seeing leads to prayer, and prayer prepares people to join God’s work.

Where might God be inviting you to notice, pray, and respond this week?

God’s compassion flows from seeing, and this truth has the power to shape how we see ourselves, and how we see others.

**You are seen by God, and that changes everything.**

## **SEEING THE PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU**

### **Luke 10:25–37**

Jesus consistently notices the person others overlook. He stops. He listens. He allows interruption. Seeing the person, the whole person, opens doors to healing, inclusion, and understanding.

#### **Day 1: Read Luke 10:25–28.**

Jesus helps an expert realize he already knows the answer to his question about attaining eternal life. The challenge is in living it.

Why do you think loving God and loving other people are so closely connected?

What happens when we try to separate them?

#### **Day 2: Read Luke 10:29.**

“Who is my neighbor?” Do we ask the question to expand our love, or to limit it?

What people or groups do you find easier to overlook, avoid, or keep at a distance? Why?

#### **Day 3: Read Luke 10:30–32.**

The priest and the Levite notice the wounded man, but they do not move toward him.

What are some reasons people notice pain or need but still choose not to get involved?

#### **Day 4: Read Luke 10:33.**

The Samaritan would seem to be the least likely to interrupt his day to help a stranger. But unlike the priest and the Levite, the Samaritan takes pity and stops to help.

How can your own experiences of loneliness, fear, or vulnerability help you see others with more compassion?

#### **Day 5: Read Luke 10:34–35.**

The Samaritan doesn't just see the wounded man; his compassion moves him to make a sacrifice and do something.

Think of a time when someone saw your need and showed you practical compassion.

What did they do, and why did it matter?

#### **Day 6: Read Luke 10:36–37.**

Jesus changes the question from “Who qualifies as my neighbor?” to “Who acted like a neighbor?” Love isn't just an idea; love is an action.

What is one specific way you can act like a neighbor to someone this week?

As followers of Jesus, how might we accept the invitation to slow down and pay attention, to neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and strangers. Sharing God's love begins not with words, but with truly seeing the other.

**Love begins when we choose to notice.**

## **TRULY SEEING**

### **John 4:1–26**

How often do we see someone and make an instant judgment about who they are, what they deserve, or how much attention they're worth? Jesus shows us a different way. Truly seeing someone is more than a passing glance; it's a posture of presence. Jesus doesn't rush people past their questions, pain, or complicated stories. He stays. He listens. He remains present even when it's awkward, uncomfortable, or culturally frowned upon.

#### **Day 1: Read John 4:1–9.**

Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well crosses cultural, religious, and social boundaries.

What kinds of boundaries – social, cultural, generational, political, religious, or personal – can keep us from truly seeing one another?

#### **Day 2: Read John 4:10–15.**

Jesus' conversation with the woman moves slowly, with questions, curiosity, invitation, and grace.

When have you needed someone to be patient with your questions, confusion, or growth?

#### **Day 3: Read John 4:16–18.**

Jesus sees and names the truth of the woman's life, not with shame, but with mercy.

What helps you trust God with the truth of your life?

What makes that kind of honesty difficult?

#### **Day 4: Read John 4:19–24.**

Jesus doesn't rush past the woman's questions or confusion. He stays honestly engaged.

What can Jesus' patience and presence teach us about listening to people's questions, doubts, or pain, even when the conversation becomes uncomfortable?

#### **Day 5: Read John 4:25–26.**

What began as a conversation about water becomes a moment of revelation.

How can your patience and presence help someone see the love of Jesus?

#### **Day 6: Read John 4:27–42.**

The woman's encounter with Jesus becomes a witness to her community.

How can someone's story of being seen, by God and by you, help others see God more clearly?

Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well doesn't just allow him to see her life more clearly; it allows her to be truly seen. And that gift of patient presence becomes the beginning of transformation, not only for her, but for an entire community. Faith grows where people are seen, heard, and loved.

**Transformation begins when we take the time to truly see one another.**

## **SEEING CHANGES US**

### **Luke 19:1–10**

We live in a world full of noise, but many people feel unseen. Distracted, overlooked, or invisible, they long to be noticed and known. Jesus doesn't merely notice Zacchaeus; he restores him to community. And Zacchaeus doesn't simply feel affirmed; he makes things right.

#### **Day 1: Read Luke 19:1–4.**

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus, but the crowd is in the way.

What obstacles can keep people from seeing or experiencing Jesus clearly today?

#### **Day 2: Read: Luke 19:5.**

Jesus looks up, sees Zacchaeus, and calls him by name.

What does it mean to you that Jesus knows people by name?

#### **Day 3: Read Luke 19:6–7.**

The crowd sees Zacchaeus through the lens of his work and reputation.

Jesus sees Zacchaeus through the lens of grace.

When are you tempted to see people mostly through their worst choices, labels, reputation, or past mistakes?

#### **Day 4: Read Luke 19:8.**

Being seen by Jesus moves Zacchaeus to examine his life and make changes.

What is the connection between grace and making things right?

Why does transformation often include repair?

#### **Day 5: Read Luke 19:9–10.**

Jesus comes to seek and save the lost.

How does your life reflect the mission of Jesus?

How does our church reflection this mission?

#### **Day 6: Read Luke 19:1-10 again.**

Zacchaeus begins the story wanting to see Jesus, but by the end, he has been seen, and the encounter changes him.

Where do you need to let yourself be seen by Jesus?

What might change in your life if you trust Jesus' grace enough to respond?

To be truly seen by Jesus reshapes how we live, spend, forgive, and repair harm.

Seeing like Jesus moves beyond empathy into action.

**Being seen by Jesus changes not just how we feel, but how we live.**