

# God Time - Taking God's Faithfulness Into Our Own Hands

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. You can read them each day or listen to the daily audio that is sent to you. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what "jumped out" at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided, so if you miss a day, you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week, God still loves you!

Monday: Romans 12:17-19

Tuesday: 1 John 5:14-15

Wednesday: Psalm 119:1-2

Thursday: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Friday: Ephesians 5:25-29

## Diving Deeper

Knowing God's Faithfulness - Taking God's Faithfulness Into Our Own Hands

Take time to locate the song "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and read the verses.

- Verse 1 speaks of God's faithfulness revealed in his Word.
- Verse 2 tells us of God's faithfulness revealed in creation.
- Verse 3 reminds us of God's faithfulness revealed in our lives.

Today we will look at the person that sometimes in scripture we overlook. Hagar.

It was not uncommon in ancient cultures for a barren woman to give her servant/slave to her husband in order to conceive a male heir. After the baby was born, the wife would adopt the child and he would become a legal heir. It was a good plan, just not God's plan.

God promised Abram that a son would come from his own body and be his heir. Abram and Sarai could have rationalized and said that if Hagar conceived and gave Abram a child this heir would be from his own body. The lesson here is that when God promises us something, he doesn't need our help in fulfilling the promise.

Hagar a lowly Egyptian servant (slave) who had been mistreated and used is amazed that the God of the universe would not only take an interest in her, but actually find her, appear to her, bless her and take care of her.

This is the only time in all scripture that the name of God is given to God by a person, instead of God giving a person His name. Hagar calls God EL ROI out of her utter amazement and gratitude that God knows all about her and has seen her misery - when apparently no one else cared. She is not surprised that God is a God who sees - but she is amazed that he is a God who sees her!

God reveals himself (his character\who he is) often through his name. When we come to know Him as EL ROI (The God who sees me) we can be confident and expectant of His faithfulness.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Has there be a time that you felt like God did not see you in your...
  - a. pain
  - b. hurts

- c. misery
  - d. rejections?
- 2) How did you deal with that time mentioned above?
- a. Did it drive you toward or away from God?

Just as for Hagar, God sees you. He knows exactly where you are at. Learn to trust God as Hagar did. It wasn't easy. She went back and submitted to Sarai as God had told her to do. And because of her trust and obedience God blessed her and kept his promises to her.