



How to Survive a Desert

God is *compassionate*; He is living, and He hears, sees, and speaks.
Genesis 16:1-15 and 21:9-21

My carving is of a beautiful African woman however:

Hagar was in the desert—twice:

Hagar *recognized* that God:

- ...is living:
- ...hears:
- ...sees:
- ...speaks:
- **Conclusion: God is both compassionate and capable.**

Hagar *related* to God with trust—she believed what He said.

Hagar *responded* to God with obedience—she did what He said.

Core Truth from Hagar's two times in the wilderness:

Seeing God help us in the wilderness...leads us to celebrate Him—corporately and individually—24/7.

Family Table Talk Questions

Questions to begin family conversations about this week's passage.

- When do you feel like you are in the desert—alone or rejected or afraid or without help—like Hagar was?
- God heard the cries of Hagar's son Ishmael when he was dying of thirst in the desert. In fact the name "Ishmael" actually means, "God hears." When you are in the desert, how do you know when God hears?
- After God found Hagar in the desert she named God, in the Hebrew language, "El-roi." The name means "God sees." How does knowing that God sees our "desert experience" help us in the difficult times?
- Both times that Hagar was in the desert God spoke to her and told her what to do. How does God tell us what to do?
- Hagar trusted God during her hard times in the desert—she believed what He said. How do we trust God in our own lives? How do we demonstrate that we believe what He has said?

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Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Core Truth from Hagar's two times in the wilderness:

Seeing God help us in the wilderness...leads us to celebrate Him—corporately and individually—24/7.

Each day this week please read Genesis 16:1-15 and 21:9-21.

- **Today.** What all does Hagar recognize as true about God from these two events?
- **Monday.** When do you personally feel like you are in a desert experience?
- **Tuesday.** How can you know that God hears you in your desert experiences?
- **Wednesday.** How can you know what God is telling you in the wilderness?
- **Thursday.** How do you demonstrate trust in God in desert experiences?
- **Friday.** Why does surviving and thriving in a desert motivate worship of God?
- **Saturday.** To be ready for tomorrow's worship time please read Luke 2:21-35.

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on "Get Connected" and the link is on that page.