

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

Genesis 16:7-14

MESSAGE RECAP

This year we are going to take a 4-week Christmas sermon series focusing on Christophanies in the Bible. Christophanies refer to appearances or revelations of Christ in the Old Testament before His incarnation in the New Testament. These appearances provide a meaningful way Jesus engaged with people in the Old Testament before that very first Christmas. This week we looked at an encounter Hagar had with “The Angel of the Lord.” Two unique names are introduced that tell us about the nature of God.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How are you...really?
2. Read through Genesis 16:7-14. Process through anything that stands out.
3. Personal Feeling of Isolation: How do you relate to Hagar’s feelings of isolation and being overwhelmed? What situations in your life evoke similar emotions? This could be at home, work, family, or circumstances.
4. Applying Jesus' Understanding and Presence: Considering Hagar's experience of feeling seen and heard by "The angel of the Lord" (a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus), how might knowing that Jesus hears and sees you help you navigate your current challenges and daily life? How does understanding Jesus' attentiveness affect your approach to difficulties or feelings of isolation?
5. Encounters Reflecting Jesus' Compassion: Recall moments in your life when you experienced Jesus' compassion or felt deeply understood by Him. How did these moments with Jesus impact your understanding of His love for you?
 - a. Read Matthew 11:28-29 and process if where you might need to take Jesus up on this invitation.

PRAY