

# START HERE GOD BEFRIENDS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Leader, please make these available to your group.

## **WOMENS BIBLE STUDY**

Sign ups are open for a new study in the book of *JUDE* with Jackie Hill Perry. The Study begins on Jan 25 Tuesdays at 9am or 7pm

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



### **JACKIE HILL PERRY**

is a Bible teacher, writer, and artist. She is the author of *Gay Girl, Good God: The Story of Who I Was, and Who God Has Always Been*. At home she is known as wife to Preston and Mommy to Eden and Autumn.





# START HERE

# GOD BEFRIENDS

Week 20 | Seen By God | Genesis 16:1-15

## HAGAR WAS NOT ONLY SEEN BY GOD SHE WAS KNOWN BY GOD

Picture a tie-dyed shirt, beads, bell-bottom pants, and a long-haired hippie saying..... Well, what do you expect her to say? Probably, "Peace and love!" While that may have been the mantra of the '60s, the mantra today is "justice and equality." This theme is being woven into our public discourse and into the fabric of our society. But where do justice and equality really come from, and how are we healed from the injustices committed against us? As Christians, we know the answer is the cross. Only the cross of Christ had the power to bring true peace and love to the hearts of hippies in the '60s. And only the cross of Christ has the power to satisfy and heal the heart's longing for justice and equality. Really, what our hearts need is the presence of Christ and the power of His love. That's precisely the lesson that Hagar learned in the Old Testament.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



### PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to share how God was present with you in a dark time and how He helped you.



### REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Hagar was victimized because Abraham and Sara took matters into their own hands instead of trusting in God. They viewed Hagar as a means of fulfilling their own desires and purposes. As Christians, how we treat people can ultimately shape how they view God. People aren't a means to accomplish our ends. That is a transactional approach to relationships, not transformational.

**Describe how we can treat others in a way that honors God and conveys how He values them.**

**While people look to advance justice and equality in society, ultimately any experience of true justice and healing from injustice comes from the power of the cross.**

2. **Based on the study, what did the Angel of the Lord's interaction reveal about God's love for Hagar during her suffering? How do these expressions of God's love speak to you today in your circumstances? (ref. The God Who cares, the God Who guides, the God Who blesses, the God to be experienced)**

**Hagar's revelation was that her identity was based in God's character not in the injustices committed against her.**

3. Jesus willingly submitted to human injustice (he was condemned to death as an innocent man), so the full justice of God could be satisfied through Christ's single sacrifice (He suffered in our place so that sin's penalty could be paid). That's where the transforming power of healing and change comes from.

**Explain how the power of the cross has worked in your life to heal and transform you. Encourage one another to trust in God's power.**

**Stop giving people control over your life and start living under God's power.**



**WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE**

**John 8:36**

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.



**REACH** (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, ask God to give you a divine appointment to compassionately share the power of the cross with a person who has suffered an injustice or feels undervalued.

**Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear about how God directed you to a hurting heart.**