

## ***Faith in the Face of Pain***

Life Group Questions for May 10, 2026

*Count the Stars* Sermon Series

### **Welcome & Check-In**

- Icebreaker question: *Thinking back on Mother's Day, share a favorite memory of your mom, of being a mom, or of a mom-like figure in your life.*
- *Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?*

### **FOLLOWING JESUS: Scripture & Reflection**

1. Read Genesis 16:1-16 out loud as a group.  
*What words or phrases stand out to you?*  
*What questions do you have?*
2. In Genesis 16, Sarai responds to pain by trying to control the outcome instead of waiting on God.  
*How does this passage inform your understanding of the relationship between control vs. faith, waiting, and surrender?*
3. God asked Hagar, "Where have you come from, and where are you going?"  
*Why do you think God invites people to reflect on both their past and their future?*  
*What might Jesus want you to notice in your own story right now, and how can that inform your sense of stepping into the unknown?*

### **IN COMMUNITY: Sharing & Support**

4. Hagar needed someone to truly see her in the middle of her suffering.  
*What helps create a community where people feel safe to be honest about their struggles?*
5. Ryan shared four words that describe how God approaches people when they are running from their pain: *found, protected, blessed, and seen.*  
*Which of these words resonates with you the most today?*  
*Do you feel seen?*  
*How can your group encourage and "see" you in the midst of your circumstances?*
6. Consider the following question posed by Ryan: *How long do you wait on God to move, and when do you take matters into your own hands?*  
*How would you answer this question and why?*

### **ON MISSION: Next Steps**

7. If God is "El Roi", the God who sees, how might He be inviting you to slow down and intentionally notice someone who feels unseen this week?

8. Hagar's encounter with God happened in the wilderness, not *after* everything was fixed.

*How can your own story of pain, struggle, or healing become a way to encourage someone else who is walking through a hard season?*

9. Revisit and add to your prayer list, then pray for one another.

**Prayer:**

*"Thank you, Father, for being the God who loves, the God who comforts, the God who guides, the God who forgives, the God of the second chances. It is through our need that we experience you most deeply. Thank you for seeing us even when we don't understand and see ourselves. We trust you, and we love you.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen."*

**For Further Reflection this Week:**

Meditate on Genesis 16:9-15.

Hagar named God, "*El Roi*", *the God who sees*.

Take some time this week to be honest before God. Consider journaling, using the following questions as your guide:

*Where have you been?*

*What are you carrying?*

*Where are you headed?*

*What do you need from God, and who is he for you?*

*In this season, what is your name for God?*