

Group Notes - Names of God Part 6

Message Series: Names of God

Message Title: El Roi - The God who sees me

Key Scripture: Genesis 16

Message Summary: In the story of Hagar, we find that God turns up in her moment of confusion, desperation and 'invisibility,' reminding her of her visibility in God. And whatever we can infer from Hagar's character, we can say with certainty that she received this simple but profound revelation that God saw her, valuing and empowering her in her situation. God brings dignity and worth to her life as he meets her in the mess. This example foreshadows Christ Jesus who brought dignity to all who were otherwise overlooked.

How does applying this message affect our: (Brief outline of each section)

Fellowship - experiencing healthy relationships with other people

This message touched on the head, heart and the hands but how does it affect the 'huddle' - my interactions with others? Who do I enjoy fellowship with? Who do I most easily gravitate towards? Do they look like me? Are they of a similar age? The body of Christ is an intergenerational, multicultural, diverse body. Do I approach others with a posture of learning valuing every 'ligament' as a precious part of the body of Christ?

Discipleship - growing in Christ both cognitively and experientially

With regard to the head and heart, Jesus' substitution - the divine exchange - included an exchange of anything that sought to separate me from the love of God, so that I may access the his very presence. His 'forsaken-ness' on the cross has bought for me the opportunity for closeness with the divine. How am I making the most of this? How does this message prompt a deeper pursuing of him in a life of worship towards God?

Ministry - Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

The Apostle Paul would pray in Ephesians 1:18, 'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...' Could we join with this prayer? That we may see others with a heart that is inclined towards the Father's; to become aware of the excluded, the 'invisible' and hurting, and be Christ's hands and feet in action towards them.

Evangelism - Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

Everyone has been made in the image of God and therefore all are valuable to him. Jesus made a habit of speaking to those he wasn't really supposed to because of cultural and societal norms. Who is within our own lives who needs to hear and

know the love of Christ in word and deed? The God who came to us; who journeys with us through our mess is a message of amazing grace and hope.

Worship - Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

The fact that we have a God at work in his creation who isn't far off and unwilling to be present is a mind blowing revelation. Grasping this has the power to transform my life, knowing that I am loved, accepted and 'seen' because of who he is. This leads us to worship even through our fellowship and connection with others.