The God Who Sees Me
September Meeting 2026

Lectio Divina - We read the Scripture"over and over, very slowly, reflecting on each word and phrase, all the while paying attention to the impact the words have on our hearts. In this way, we are 'praying the Scriptures". It is very different from studying Scripture in which we come to the text to try to understand its meaning. In Lectio Divina, the Bible passage 'studies us'."
(The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith, pg. 108)

Spend a minute or two silencing your thoughts, releasing the chaos/noise in your thoughts to Him.

She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." Genesis 16:13-14

1st reading: Listen for a word/phrase that catches your attention.
2nd reading: Listen and ponder any invitation the LORD is extending to you.
3rd reading: Take a minute to talk with God about the feelings these words have aroused in you. Where are you resistant and want to push back? Where do you sense God inviting you into something deeper with Him?

(Steps of listening devotionally taken from Spiritual Discipline Handbook, Practices that Transform Us by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun)

Read the following passages together and hear from Hagar and her story from the book of Genesis. Imagine yourself in Hagar's place.

Genesis 15: 1-7 Read to give us some context of this family in which Hagar finds herself a servant.

Genesis 16 Read this 1st part of Hagar's story.

Genesis 17: 1-8, 15-27 Build your sense of this tremendous relationship the LORD is building with Abraham - now the father of Ishmael, Hagar's son.

Genesis 21: 1-21 Hagar and Ishmael are sent away with little provision.

After reading together, we will practice the spiritual discipline: Visio Divina, otherwise known as a Sacred Seeing. Art becomes the medium whereby we again open our hearts/thoughts to God to see in what way He may meet with us.
There are 4 pictures of art depicting this story of Hagar. We will scroll through each piece together while we listen to a song. After the song, please choose any of the pictures to take into your personal time and work through these steps as you look at the picture:

Step 1: Gaze at the entire picture. Notice the shapes, colors, the lighting. Notice the details of both the foreground and background. What is drawing your attention?
Step 2: Why may God be drawing your attention to that detail/thought? Do you sense an invitation? Do you hear a call? Is a memory aroused?What emotion is evoked? What word describes your inner stirring as you embrace this feeling? Allow God's invitation to touch you deep within.
Step 3: Take a minute to talk with God about the feelings this picture has aroused in you. What is your response? What do you want to tell Him? Where are you resistant and want to push back? Where do you sense God inviting you into something deeper with Him? Sit with the God who sees you. (Kathy Keary, Precious Blood Renewal Center www.pbrenewalcenter.org)

Margaret Rizza, Chants for Prayer, Come Be With Me
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLy0qzcPXVo&list=PLVeCkDHDkQwwTrR9TC4Dq21z03S23W1aS&index=12



A Depiction of Hagar by Jacqueline Gad, an Egyptian artist
https://whenwomenspeak.net/blog/depictions-of-hagar/



Byherfruits.art

https://www.instagram.com/p/DN3i_UH3vky/



"The Expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael" ***unknown artist***

https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/modernist-style-stained-glass-window-second-half--192-c-9894fe7d09



Australian indigenous artist, Joanne Baker from Milingimbi
https://whenwomenspeak.net/blog/depictions-of-hagar/