

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

1. What has God shown you as you studied his word this week?
2. Why is there such value in reading and understanding the scriptures we looked at this week?
3. What points in the message encouraged you and gave you hope?
4. How are you doing in your intentional relationship with Jesus this week?
5. How will you personally apply what you learned from the sermon to your life?

DEEPER

Pray: We would be people that know that God sees us in our suffering and distress and promises that we have a future whose days cannot be numbered if we belong to Christ.

Read: Genesis 16:1-16, Luke 19:41, Revelation 21:1-5. Take time to reflect on these passages and write down your thoughts. Visit gatewaypc.org/news to read and review the sermon manuscript.

Write: Take time to write down your thoughts and insights from the sermon this week. Keeping a journal is just one more tool that you can use to track what God is showing you in your walk with him.

Sing: Listen to the worship songs from Sunday throughout the week. Look up the lyrics to each song and spend some time reading them as well.

Memorize: As a Life Group, pick a few verses from the sermon and memorize them this week. (Check out the read section for options)

Love: Share this message of hope with someone you love.



BIG IDEA

“God sees you in your suffering and distress, and promises that you have a future whose days cannot be numbered if you belong to Christ. Yet you are carrying a burden that feels like hopelessness. Do not believe the lie that you are alone. I promise God sees you and invites you to no longer carry this burden alone. He has already blessed you with people who will walk with you.”

THOUGHTS FROM THE SERMON

1. What stood out to you in this week’s sermon? What were your biggest takeaways?

Read: Genesis 16:1-16

2. What did you learn about the name of God, El Roi?
3. Why is it important that we don’t gloss over the messy parts in scripture?

“Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.” -Oswald Chambers

4. In what ways does the truth of this statement bring you comfort? In what ways do you struggle with the reality of this statement?
5. How do we see Abram live out this kind of faith? What happens when Abram and Sarai decide to solve their problem on their own? How do we see Abram live out this kind of faith?
6. Have you ever been hurt or mistreated by people who were supposed to be trustworthy? Have you ever experienced this in the church? Talk about it in your group and have them pray for you.

Read: Genesis 16:7-14, Luke 19:41, Revelation 21:1-5

7. As Hagar runs, what does she believe will be her fate in the desert? How does her encounter with God change all of that? How can we trust that God sees our pain and suffering and is at work in our situation?
8. Why did Jesus weep as he approached Jerusalem? Why is the idea of future hope so difficult to embrace in hard times? How can it bring us comfort?
9. As Christ Followers, what does our future suffering look like? How do we know this is true?