

## **July 30 – Small Group**

### **Genesis 16:1-16 “El Roi: The God Who Sees”**

#### **Read Genesis 16.**

1. What is your first impression of this story?
2. Mini-sermon 1 was about Abraham’s lack of faith, and the connections the author is making between this story and Genesis 3. What do the two stories have in common?
3. Mini-sermon 2 was about Sarah’s identity resting in the cultural pressure on women to bear children. Do you sympathise with Sarah in this story? Why or why not? What kinds of pressure does our culture put on us in terms of identity?
4. Mini-sermon 3 was about how hurt people hurt people. Name the different ways that people hurt each other in this story. How could that cycle have been broken? How does the cross interrupt the cycle of ‘hurt people hurting people’?
5. Mini-sermon 4 was about the misuse of power, and how Sarah mistreats an Egyptian when she is in power, just as the Egyptians will mistreat the Israelites when they are in power. What does the Bible have to say about power and weakness?
6. Mini-sermon 6 is about how despite the fact that everyone in the story has gone their own way and hurt each other, God steps into the mess and reveals himself as the God who cares for each of us in our situations, and has seen our ways and will heal us. (See Isaiah 57:18) Are there situations in your life where this is an encouraging thought for you? Share with the group as you feel comfortable.

For further discussion: mini-sermon 5 was on faith versus works, based on Galatians 4:21-31. This passage is worth a whole discussion in its own right!