

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE FOR THE WEEK OF 7/11/10

SERIES: NOW I KNOW—when life teaches you an unforgettable lesson about God (II)

Scripture: Genesis 16

1. Ice-Breaker:

Frank mentioned that we tend to especially notice things that personally interest us? Can you give an example of some things you regularly notice, which others might not, because you have a special interest in that area?

2. The Bible alerts us to the fact that God especially notices persons in distress.

Read the following passages:

Psalm 23:4, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 68:4-5, Psalm 94:18-19, Psalm 113:5-7, Psalm 146:5-9

How does this biblical truth make you feel?

3. Can you recall a time in your life when you were in a very bad place and you experienced God showing up?

Have you had a time in your life when you were in a very bad place, and God didn't seem to notice or show up?

What advice would you give to a person going through such a time?

4. God doesn't drop neon signs from heaven flashing, "I'm up here!" or usually send "the angel of the Lord" to give us a message, when we desperately need to know he sees and cares. What are some of the ways God makes his presence known in the toughest times of life?

5. What struck you in Sunday's reflection about Hagar? (Genesis 16)

Why do you think the Holy Spirit insisted that this story be preserved in the opening chapters of the Old Testament?

In the low point of her life, Hagar named God "El Roi" or "God sees me!" (Genesis 16:13) If you were to give God a name today, what might it be?

6. In closing, read Psalm 139:7-12 together. With your Bibles open, use these words to shape a time of prayer together.