



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource

*Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:  
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

## Genesis 16:1-16 The story of Hagar

Theme: The story of the woman who named God.

### Contents:

<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Together</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Experience</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Explore</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Express</a> .....	4

### Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

This week we are looking at the story of Hagar – an oft forgotten woman in the Bible (not to be confused with Hagar the Horrible – a comic strip Viking!).

In the translation we have suggested you use, Hagar is described as Sarai's 'maid'. Other translations refer to her as Sarai's servant or slave. You might find it useful to look at alternative translations to get a more rounded understanding of Hagar's position in Abram and Sarai's household. Nowadays we would not use the term 'slave' but, rather say that she was 'enslaved'. Slavery is something that is done to another person – it doesn't describe them.

There is a lot in this passage – Sarai treats Hagar as a possession and gifts her body to Abram in order that Abram might have a better chance of having a child. There is no consent from Hagar. Once she becomes pregnant with Abram's child, Hagar begins to treat Sarai differently – and not in a good way. Hagar runs away from Sarai, who is mistreating her, into the desert.

Be aware of various potential triggers in this story – domestic abuse, bullying, but also issues potentially arising around step-parents and infidelity. These will all need to be dealt with sensitively.

In the desert, God uses an angel to talk to Sarai – God tells her to return to Sarai and put up with her abuse. This is not suggesting that children, or parents, should 'suffer in silence'. Affirm this point to your group and refer to your church's safeguarding policy. God tells Sarai to name her child 'Ishmael' – translated as 'God hears' – and Hagar realises that God has seen her, and she has seen God.



If you used last week's session you might like to draw parallels between the two stories – God's angels, places being given names because there was an encounter with God. You might also like to explore God giving children names – and make the link with the angel telling Mary to call her baby 'Jesus' (Luke 1.26-38).

## Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

*All mighty God,*

*Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.*

*Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.*

*Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.*

*Amen*

### In-person – stage names

Many famous people are known by names different from their birth name. Use this quiz to see how well people know the celebrities. You can have a multiple choice answer and assign a part of the room for that answer.

**Is the singer, Lady Gagas real name:**

- A) Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta** B) Sarah Penelope Ann Germanotta or C) Christine German

**Is the youtuber, Pewdepies real name:**

- A) Felix David Kjellberg B) Philip Kjellberg or **C) Felix Arvid Ulf Kjellberg**

**Is the rapper Drakes real name:**

- A) Aubrey Drake Graham** B) Anthony Drake Graham or C) Antonio Graham

**Is the actor Vin Diesels real name:**

- A) Mark Anthony **B) Mark Sinclair** or C) Michael Senior

**Is the singer Elton Johns real name:**

- A) Richard Abbott B) Ronald Keith Don **C) Reginald Kenneth Dwight**

**Is the golfer Tiger Woods real name:**

- A) **Eldrick Tont Woods** B) Ethan Woods C) Elliott Tate Woods

You could add more if you wish.



## Alternative game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

## Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/>  
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

God who sees Music video by Nicole C. Mullen  
<https://youtu.be/sz81dlfwf4Y?si=VaDYITv0O7-7nPZ6>

The God who sees me by Rigsi [https://youtu.be/ZRP3hyq36ko?si=xA\\_9TwndgaJAYijb](https://youtu.be/ZRP3hyq36ko?si=xA_9TwndgaJAYijb)

**Questions for discussion – the first 3 minutes of the 12 minute video focuses on the story of Hagar but if you want a discussion around others in the Bible who are seen by God watch to the end.**

- What do the lyrics.....but God says “I will be the ring of fire round her” mean to you?
- How does it feel to know that God sees you?
- What do all the characters in the video tell you about how God sees us?

## Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

### A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

### Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Short Hagar devotional for youth by Domaine Youth works [https://youtu.be/GtM-UXb9ayc?si=\\_nTPVVuEev\\_D1HHP](https://youtu.be/GtM-UXb9ayc?si=_nTPVVuEev_D1HHP)

If you have time you could briefly discuss initial thoughts of this video and what it means for our lives today.

### Talking together: Going deeper

- Has there been a time when you have felt you are lost or in the wilderness like Hagar – have you been seen by God?

- What name would you give God and what name would God give you?
- When have you been seen but wanted to be invisible? When have you been invisible but wanted to be seen?

### Conversation starters

- I wonder why God sent Hagar back?
- I wonder if you know what your name means? What would you call yourself if you could choose a different name?
- I wonder how Sarai felt when Hagar got pregnant?
- I wonder whether Hagar felt God before God visited her as an angel?

## Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

### Praying together

**Prayer** Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below.

Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Awesome God!

You're truly awesome, God!

You don't just know enough about us to be able to weigh us up – you know everything about us inside and out.

You don't offer us just enough to be getting on with – you lavish your love on us, pour it out, cover us in love, so that all our bad stuff can be forgiven and all that's good in us can shine.

There are really no words to say what we feel about that, so we'll just say, 'Awesome, God!'

Amen

(from Roots)

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### Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

### SWAN campaign – #StartsWithaName

The #startswithaname campaign is an inclusion and belonging initiative that encourages people to share the phonetic spellings of their names. It is hoped that this will help people to feel welcome. Spend some time coming up with phonetic versions of your name and create a

card to show this. You could use emojis, rhyming words, celebrities, famous places to make your pronunciation as memorable as possible for others.

For example the name Tom Hackett could be presented as Tom (sounds like bomb 🧨) Hack-it

Take a look at this video <https://youtu.be/Cu9SFaCIUSY?si=F4LIFtmw9j1ZLyrB> for some examples, and checkout [www.startswithaname.net](http://www.startswithaname.net) for more information about the campaign.

## Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

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- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **Do you know why your name was chosen? What do you like/ dislike about it?**
  - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://Resources.jpit.uk) Commitment for Life [cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk)
  - How important is it for those around you to know your name? God has many names. This video gives some insight into some of those names. I wonder how many of them you have heard of before?  
<https://youtu.be/0pFUWuT6O9w?si=5mPnTuGUj9U1fEMK>
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Thank you for exploring the **Genesis** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [https://bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](https://bit.ly/FACT_FB)