

INTRO

- According to the most recent World Migration Report, there were *281 million international migrants* in the world in 2020
- And of these 281 million international migrants, the UN estimates that over 100 million of them were forcibly displaced from their homes due to war, persecution and violence
- *1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee from their home*
- *The U.S. is the top destination country for international migrants, including refugees.*
- *1 in 7 people living in America today were not born here*
- *And right now, every week, 1 – 2 new refugee families are resettled in Salem, Oregon*

Which of these statistics most grabs your attention? Why?

IDEA 1

“Feeling seen is a state in which our identity, emotions, needs, and/or physical presence get fully recognized through means such as validation, support, and inclusion. The opposite of feeling seen often leaves us feeling invisible, unheard, and neglected.”

What about this definition of “feeling seen” stands out to you?

When in your life have you truly felt seen? When have you felt understood, known, and loved for exactly who you are?

When in your life have you felt unseen? When have you felt invisible, unheard, and neglected?

IDEA 2

Read Genesis 16: 1 – 15

- **What emotions arise in you as you read about Hagar’s story?**
- **What evidence do you see of God’s pursuit of Hagar?**
- **How does Hagar’s encounter with God shape her view of God?**

IDEA 2

From Hagar's story we see that:

- *God sees people who are marginalized, displaced and hurting.*
- *God has given us a ministry of seeing.*

Why do you think that God has a special heart towards the marginalized, displaced and hurting? Where have you seen evidence of this in your own life or others?

What do you think it means that God has given us a ministry of seeing? What does it look like to participate in it?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Take time together to think about the marginalized, displaced and hurting people you know of.

As you do, share with your life group about their situation and bring them in prayer to the God who sees.

NEXT STEPS

Anya ended her sermon by challenging us to take 2 next steps:

1. Practice noticing those who need to be seen
2. When you notice someone who needs to be seen, take time to stop & respond

Who is one person you encounter in the course of a day who needs to know that God sees them?

How does God want to use you as his hands, his feet, his voice to let this person know that they are seen and they are loved?