

## Pastor's Winter Book Club 2022

*Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*

By Rachel Held Evans

### Session #2

January 12 at 6pm on Zoom and January 13 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall

For Session #2 Read "The Well" and "Deliverance Stories"

**Zoom Link for Wednesday, January 12 at 6pm:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84865582248>

Or use meeting ID: 848 6558 2248

### Opening Prayer

#### Warm up question:

What is your favorite name for God? Or how are you most comfortable addressing God in prayer?

#### The Well

**Scripture Exercise:** Genesis 16:1-16

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, <sup>2</sup>and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. <sup>3</sup>So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.

<sup>4</sup>He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. <sup>5</sup>Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" <sup>6</sup>But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." <sup>9</sup>The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her."

<sup>10</sup>The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." <sup>11</sup>And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. <sup>12</sup>He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin." <sup>13</sup>So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" <sup>14</sup>Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

<sup>15</sup>Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. <sup>16</sup>Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

1. What do you notice in this scripture?
2. Does the scripture feel more familiar to you after reading "The Well"?

## Deliverance Stories

*My Jewish friends like to joke that you can sum up nearly every Jewish holiday with, "They tried to kill us; we won; let's eat!"*

*"Turn it and turn it," the ancient rabbis said of scripture, comparing it to a precious gem, "For everything is in it."*

3. What in this set of chapters challenged you or resonated with you?
4. Held-Evans writes about Lauren Winner's practice of "Dislocated Exegesis." Do you have any examples of reading scripture in a place that changed how you heard it?
5. What comes to mind when you hear reference to "The Law" in scripture? Does reading it with a connection to deliverance challenge or change that understanding?
6. What do you think about Held-Evans' statement that "you can bend scripture to say just about anything you want it to say" and "we all go to the text looking for something and we all have a tendency to find it."?
7. Is there a time in your life when God made a way where there seemed to be no way? What wilderness does your testimony involve? What deliverance comes with your testimony?

### **Invitation to Creativity**

In the coming week, read Psalm 63 and write a song or a poem that interweaves the sacred text with reflection from your own wilderness experiences.

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

### **Closing Prayer**

For Session #3 read *The Walls and War Stories*