HAGAR

What The Bible Teaches Us

About Justice for the Oppressed



The Original *Hagar*

A Woman Seen by God



At the heart of Christian faith is a simple but radical belief: every person is made in the image of God and is therefore precious, worthy of dignity, and deserving of care. This conviction drives everything Hagar does.

The name we carry comes from the Bible — a woman who was powerless, isolated, and without protection, yet who was seen and cared for by God when no one else would. Twice she fled into the wilderness. Twice God found her there.

In that encounter, she gave God a name: El Roi, which means 'The God Who Sees Me.' It is one of the few times in Scripture that a human being names God — and it was given by a slave. In her story, we recognise the people we work with today: those who have been exploited, displaced, and pushed to the margins. In God's response to her, we find our calling.

We follow that same impulse - *to see those who have been overlooked, to stand with those who have been abandoned, and to walk alongside them as they rebuild their lives.*

For Hagar, care and justice are inseparable acts of faith.

> **"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"**
>
> Genesis 16:13



A God Who Acts on Behalf of the *Vulnerable*

From *Genesis to Revelation*, Scripture forms a consistent and urgent thread: God is deeply, personally invested in freedom, healing, and justice for the oppressed. This is not peripheral to the faith, but *central* to it.

What the Bible Says:

- God hears the cries of the oppressed (Exodus 3:7)
- He defends the fatherless and widow (Psalm 68:5)
- God heals the brokenhearted (Psalm 147:3)
- Justice is the foundation of His throne (Psalm 89:14)
- We must speak for those who cannot (Provers 31:8-9)
- God desires us to act justly and love mercy (Micah 6:8)

What This Looks Like Today:

- Providing trauma-informed counselling and long-term care
- Pursuing justice by holding perpetrators accountable and advocating for systemic change
- Restoring each survivor's dignity, freedom, and hope in community



Modern-Day *Hagars* Are All Around Us

Today, millions of women and children find themselves in the same wilderness as Hagar of the Bible - they are survivors of human trafficking, forced labour, violence and exploitation. Like Hagar, they are often invisible to the world. And like Hagar, they need someone to stop, see them, and speak life over them.

Hagar exists at that intersection of biblical mandate and urgent need. For over 30 years, we have provided long-term, trauma-informed care and justice to survivors of human trafficking and abuse - walking alongside each individual as they rebuild their lives with dignity.

Sopheak's Story: A Modern-Day Hagar

Sopheak grew up in Cambodia dreaming of a better life. At 16, a neighbor promised her a good job in another city. Instead, she was sold into domestic servitude — forced to work endless hours, cut off from her family, with no way to escape. *For years, no one came.* She prayed into silence.

Then Hagar's counsellor found her. Like the angel who appeared to Hagar in the wilderness, her counsellor spoke her name, saw her suffering, and said: 'You are not forgotten.' Through trauma-informed care, safe housing, and job training, Sopheak slowly rebuilt her life. Today she works as a seamstress, supports her younger siblings, and volunteers to help other survivors find their footing.

"I used to think God had forgotten me. Now I know He sent people to find me."



What Hagar Does And Why It *Matters*

Just as God sent a messenger into the desert for Hagar, Hagar seeks out the hidden, the trafficked, and the broken. Our approach is holistic, evidence-based, and rooted in the God-given dignity of every survivor.

- ✦ **Trauma-Informed Care:** Long-term, professional counselling tailored to survivors of trafficking and abuse
- ✦ **Safe Housing & Shelter:** Transitional homes that provide stability, safety, and community
- ✦ **Economic Empowerment:** Job skills, micro-enterprise development, and vocational education
- ✦ **Pursuing Justice:** Walking alongside survivors to hold perpetrators accountable and advocate for systemic change
- ✦ **Community Reintegration:** Helping survivors rebuild relationships, identity, and a future with dignity

> **"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.**
>
> Proverbs 31:8-9



Your *Role* In This Story

The story of Hagar teaches us that God works through people just like you, who open their eyes to suffering and refuse to look away.

Here are some ways you can make a difference today for modern-day Hagars.

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PRAY

Lift up survivors and the workers who serve them daily

Contact Our Team

💛

DONATE

Fund trauma care, safe homes and job training

Give Today

📣

ADVOCATE

Share stories, raise awareness, fight for justice

Learn More