



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Acts 1.3 & 1 Corinthians 15.3-8

Open with Prayer:

Sermon Summary:

This sermon confronts the dangerous belief that Jesus is limited, distant, or unable to see us in our darkest moments. We trace the incarnate Jesus through His very real limitations of location, presence, and sight. Then we land on the resurrection as the moment those limitations were completely removed. Using 1 Corinthians 15.3-8, we see that the risen Jesus appeared to specific people because He first saw their specific need. Rooted in the name El Roi from Genesis 16, the sermon closes with this truth: He is the God who appears because He sees, and He has never stopped seeing you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15.3-8. What stands out to you about who Jesus appeared to and in what order? Why do you think Paul included so many witnesses?
2. The sermon made the point that Jesus didn't appear and then see. He saw and then appeared. What does that order mean for how you think about God's awareness of your life?
3. Read Genesis 16.7-13. Hagar was alone, used, and forgotten, and yet God saw her. Have you ever felt like Hagar? What did it mean to you to be seen in that moment?
4. The sermon described the incarnate Jesus as genuinely limited by location, time, and circumstance. Does knowing He voluntarily took on those limitations change how you relate to Him? Why or why not?
5. Where in your life right now are you most tempted to believe that Jesus is limited in His ability to see or reach you?
6. Hebrews 13.8 says Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. How does that truth speak to seasons of change, loss, or uncertainty in your own life?
7. What would it look like this week to fix your eyes on the God who sees rather than on the limitations that feel loudest right now?

Key Takeaways:

- **He saw first.** The appearing was always the result of the seeing.
- He is El Roi: the **God who sees you**, not just the God who knows about you.
- The resurrection didn't just prove He was alive. It **removed every limitation** on His presence and His sight.
- **He does not change.** The God of Hagar's wilderness *is* the God of your wilderness right now.
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This Week:

- This week, pick one moment each day when you feel unseen, overlooked, or uncertain, and speak this out loud: "He saw this moment before I arrived in it. He has not looked away."
- Write down what you notice by the end of the week about how that practice begins to shift what you believe about who He is.