



El Ro-ee: The God Who Sees Me Jonathan Bernis

Focus We are promised challenges in this life, but God sees us, and He is guiding us!

Fun If you could learn any other language, what would it be?

Review Key Scriptures: Genesis 16:1–13; Proverbs 29:18

1. **God sees us.**

One name for God, El Ro-ee, reveals that God not only sees us, but He also guides us. He is not watching to punish us when we fail, but rather, He watches with eyes of love to guide us, as a shepherd guides his sheep, into our destiny.

2. **Where have you come from and where are you going?**

Read Proverbs 29:18. When walking through challenges, we must recall where we have been brought from (or *what* we have been brought out of). What has been the transformational work of God in our lives? And we must know where we are going. What vision do we have for our lives? Every one of us has a destiny to fulfill, a unique purpose and calling. If we don't have vision, we will find ourselves wandering back to our old lives.

3. **We all need the revelation that God sees us.**

It is not enough for us to know that God sees. We must have a revelation, an encounter with God so that we see for ourselves that God sees us. He knows us intimately, and He knows exactly what we need.

Group Dynamics Idea Vision is vital for our growth! Challenge your group to take time during the week to ask God what His vision is for their lives. Really encourage them to allow space for God to speak and to be ready to listen. Have them write it out and share with the group the next time you meet.

Discuss

1. Jonathan Bernis shared the meanings of two Hebrew words closely connected but spelled slightly different. One means “The God Who Sees” while the other connotes a God who guides. What deeper revelation do you find with these two names of God being connected in Hebrew?
2. Where have you been brought out from? Rabbi Bernis eloquently expounded on Hagar’s past and her journey to becoming the favored and trusted slave in the house of blessing—to the moment that she was despised and rejected. Why is it important to reflect back on your encounters with the Lord that transformed your life?
3. Where are you going? Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Why does a lack of vision for our lives cause destruction?
4. The first time the Angel of the Lord (Jesus) appears in Scripture, it is to Hagar, who becomes the grandmother of the Arab nations. Of all the men and women in the Bible, why do you think Jesus chose her? What does that reveal about His heart?
5. We all need reminders that God sees us. Has there been a moment in your walk with the Lord when He showed you how well He knew and cared about the individual, intimate details of your life? If not, ask Him for such an encounter!

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- We will all go through challenges, but our confidence is that He sees us, cares for us, and is guiding us through each step.
- Never forget the transformation God accomplished in your life and the encounters you have had with Him.
- There is nothing for you in your old life. If you find yourself wandering back there, ask God for vision for your future!

Prayer

Lord, thank You for not just watching us from a distance. You look in close to the intimate details of our lives because You love and care for us. Thank You for

Your guiding hand that reaches after us when we start wandering. Remind us of the incredible journey You have already brought us on and give us vision and hope for our future with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

New Leader Tip In groups, you often have two different audiences: those who are comfortable talking and those who aren't. We desire healthy group discussions where everyone can share and be heard. That is a value that you, as a group leader, will need to communicate. If you feel there is an imbalance, make a note for your next group meeting. It's usually best to remind others of these values at the beginning of your time together. And communicate with grace! Expressing honor and value for someone and for what they have to share will go a long way in covering any offense.