



A FREE 2-DAY TASTE

When You Carry It Alone

*14 days of grace for the parent
doing the work of two*

THE STILL PRAYING COLLECTION • NO. 3



EVERYDAY MERCIES

everydaymercies.com



The God Who Sees You

READ: Genesis 16:6–13

“You are the God who sees me... I have now seen the One who sees me.”

— Genesis 16:13 (NIV)

The first person in the Bible to give God a name was not a patriarch, a priest, or a king. She was a runaway servant, pregnant, alone in a desert, carrying a child whose family situation was already complicated beyond her control. Her name was Hagar, and the name she gave God was El Roi: the God who sees me.

Sit with how remarkable that is. Prophets saw visions, and Moses saw a burning bush, but the naming-of-God honor went to a single mother at her lowest hour, because what she needed most was not an explanation or a rescue plan. She needed to know that someone saw her. And Someone did.

So much of single parenting is unwitnessed. There is no other adult to see you check the locks at midnight, sign every form, hold the line on bedtime with your last scrap of patience, or cry quietly in the car and then walk back in smiling. The work is real, but no one claps. Over time, unwitnessed labor starts to whisper a lie: maybe it doesn't matter. Maybe I don't.

Hagar's desert says otherwise. The God who found her was not passing by; He came looking, asked her story, spoke to her future, and saw her. He has not changed. Every unwitnessed thing you did this week happened in full view of El Roi.

Today, no assignment beyond this: let yourself be seen. Not evaluated. Seen.

REFLECT

1. What is the most unwitnessed part of your daily load, the thing no one ever sees you do?
2. What changes in you when you picture God having watched every one of those moments with the eyes of a Father?

TRY TODAY

Tonight, out loud, tell God one unwitnessed thing you did today, and end with Hagar's words: "You are the God who sees me."



El Roi, God who sees me: thank You that nothing I carry is invisible to You.

The Other Parent in This House

READ: Psalm 68:4–6

“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.”

— Psalm 68:5–6 (NIV)

Every single parent knows the arithmetic of absence. There is a parent-shaped gap in the house, and you spend your days doing the math around it: who plays catch, who braids hair, who explains things, who shows up to the recital when you cannot be two places at once. The gap is real. Pretending otherwise helps no one.

But Psalm 68 makes a claim about that gap which deserves to be taken literally: God names Himself a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. Notice this is not one of His poetic compliments. It is a job title He assigned Himself, “in his holy dwelling,” as though heaven’s own letterhead lists it. Where a family is missing a parent, God does not merely sympathize with the gap. He moves into it.

What does that look like on an ordinary Tuesday? It looks like a Father who hears the prayers you pray over your kids and adds His own answer. Who works on a child’s heart in the hours they are out of your sight, which is the truest fear you carry. Who defends, His word, the parent holding the house together. You are not raising these children with no one. You are raising them with the least absent Father in existence.

Say the arithmetic differently from now on. Not “it’s just me.” It has never been just you. There is another Parent in this house, and He does not travel, tire, or leave.

REFLECT

1. Where do you feel the parent-shaped gap most sharply in your family’s life right now?
2. What would you hand over first, if you truly believed God had taken up fatherhood in your house?

✦ TRY TODAY

Pick the one gap that worries you most, and formally give it to God tonight in one sentence: “Father, this one is Yours.”



Father to the fatherless, thank You for moving into our gap. Parent with me, especially where I cannot reach.



This is only the beginning

There are twelve more days waiting for you: the flour-and-oil math, the after-bedtime hour, Lois and Eunice, the arms that carried you all the way. Find the complete 14-day guide in the Everyday Mercies shop on Etsy, and come say hello at everydaymercies.com.

everydaymercies.com