**QUESTIONS GOD ASKS…Where have you come from & where are you going?**

**Genesis 16:1-15**

**THE BIG IDEA**

At some point, most of us find ourselves at a crossroads in life, where we must reflect on where we have come from and discern where it is that God is calling us to go from there. This is important spiritual work that we must not shy away from. And it is in this discernment work that God tends to lead us onto a better path.

**OPENING**

When you consider your current season of life, how would you answer the questions:

* “Where have you come from?”
* “Where are you going?”

**DIGGING DEEPER**

Read Genesis 16:1-15 out loud together. What do you notice? What questions does this scripture bring to your mind? What surprised you or felt new?

How does Hagar’s story challenge the idea of who God chooses to speak to or bless?

Why do you think Hagar only answers the first part of the question (“Where have you come from?”) but not the second (“Where are you going?”)?

What does it mean that Hagar names God *El Roi*, “The God Who Sees Me”? Why is that significant in this story?

Compare Hagar’s desert encounter with Psalm 139:1-3 & 7–12. What connections do you see between Hagar’s experience and the psalmist’s reflection?

**PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**

How might praying through the questions, “Where have you come from and where are you going?” help bring clarity to a decision you're facing now?

As a church, we are at a crossroads, between lead pastors and discerning where God is leading us to go in the next season. How would you begin to answer these questions for us as a church?:

* Where have we come from?
* Where is God calling us to go?

**PRAYER**

*Take time as a group, hearing one another’s prayer requests. Then end with the following prayer.*
God of the wilderness, you ask, *Where have you come from, and where are you going?* We come from many places, with many stories. We may go forward uncertain, but we are not alone. To the one who is running, you give rest. To the one who is wandering, you give purpose. To the one who feels unseen, you say: *I see you.* You are the God who sees. You are the God who guides. Help us to go where you lead, trusting you are with us. Amen.