

Contextual Readings of the Hagar Narrative

Choose three of the following readings to assign:

- Adamo, David Tuesday, and Eriwvierho Francis Eghubare. "[The African Wife of Abraham \(Gn 16:1–16; 21:8–21\)](#)." *Old Testament Essays* 18 (2005): 455–71. (Nigerian)
- Cohen, Aryeh. "Hagar and Ishmael: A Commentary." *Interpretation* 68 (2014): 247–56. (Jewish)
- Dharamraj, Havilah. "The Curious Case of Hagar: Biblical Studies and the Interdisciplinary Approach of Comparative Literature." *Journal of Asian Evangelical Theology* 23 (2019): 49–71. (Indian)
- Lovelace, Vanessa. "'This Woman's Son Shall Not Inherit with My Son:' Towards a Womanist Politics of Belonging in the Sarah-Hagar Narratives." *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* 41 (2015): 63–82. (Womanist)
- Marzouk, Safwat. "Interrogating Identity: A Christian Egyptian Reading of the Hagar-Ishmael Traditions." Pages 3–30 in *Colonialism and the Bible: Contemporary Reflections from the Global South*. Edited by Tat-Siong Benny Liew and Fernando F. Segovia. Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies in Religion and Theology. Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2018. (Egyptian)
- Ngan, Lai Ling Elizabeth. "Neither Here nor There: Boundary and Identity in the Hagar Story." Pages 70–83 in *Ways of Being, Ways of Reading: Asian American Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Mary F. Foskett and Jeffre Kah-Jin Kuan. St. Louis: Chalice, 2006. (Asian American)
- Simopoulos, Nicole M. "Who Was Hagar? Mistress, Divorcee, Exile, or Exploited Worker: An Analysis of Contemporary Grassroots Readings of Genesis 16 by Caucasian, Latina, and Black South African Women." Pages 63–72 in *Reading Other-Wise: Socially Engaged Biblical Scholars Reading with Their Local Communities*. Edited by Gerald O. West. SBL Semeia Studies 62. Atlanta: SBL, 2007. (Caucasian, Latina, and Black South African)
- Starr-Morris, Ashley. "Leah and Hagar: An Intergenerational Conversation of Belonging." *CrossCurrents* 69 (2019): 384–401. (Feminist)
- Williams, Delores S. "Hagar's Story: A Route to Black Women's Issues." Pages 15–31 in *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993. (Womanist)

Ask the Following Questions in Class or in an Online Discussion Forum:

- Do you relate to any of the contextual readings of the Hagar story in the assigned essays? If so, which one(s) and why? If not, how do you read the Hagar story differently than the interpreters in the assigned essays? (Consider especially which character you most relate to in the narrative.)
- What struck you in the readings, and why?