

## Prayer and reflection resource

Week Two | “Elijah and Hagar”



The image on the left is of the 19th century painting *Elijah in the Wilderness* by Frederic Leighton, from the [National Museums Liverpool](#).

It shows Elijah lying back on a rock, his body abandoned to death. On his left, and unseen by Elijah whose gaze is directed upwards, an angel in flowing white robes stands in the act of placing a bottle beside him.

The colour palette is muted and predominantly brown and grey. Although light shines behind and around the angel's head, the area where he places the bottle and bread which will sustain Elijah is cast into shadow.

What does this painting say to you about wilderness?

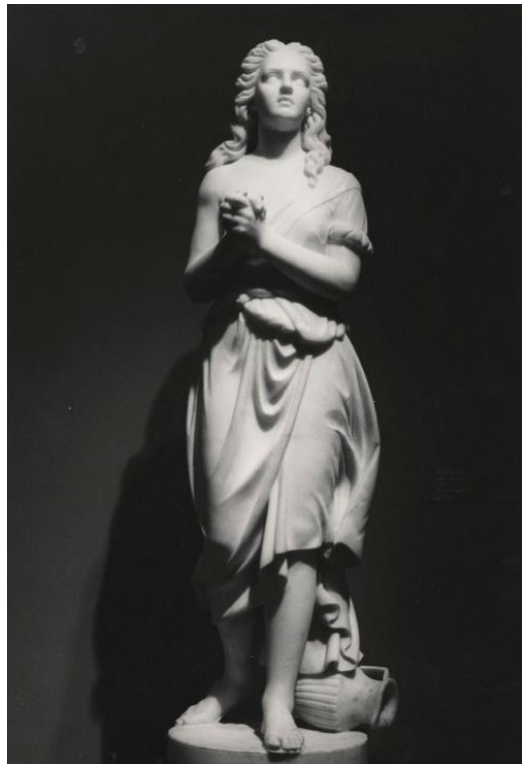
Our image of Hagar (to the right) is a sculpture by Edmonia Lewis, an African-American and Native American sculptor who lived at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In making this piece, Lewis was inspired by "strong sympathy for all women who have struggled and suffered."

It is carved in white marble, and shows a woman standing, her hands clasped together. She appears to be stepping forward and looks ahead and slightly upwards. At her feet lies a water jug on its side – clearly empty.

Which part of Hagar's story do you think is depicted here?

How might this woman speak to your own experience of wilderness?



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## Reflections

You might like to take time to reflect this week on times when you have been afraid.

Where and how have you been sustained through these times? What has helped you keep going?

Our reflections this week have drawn on material from Kings 19 and Genesis 16 and 21: 14-21.

What is it in these stories that speaks most to you?

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