

## Discussion Questions for *The Woman Who Named God*

1. What faith tradition were you raised in? If you are Jewish or Christian were you surprised to discover the Muslim version of Hagar? If you are Muslim, had you heard these stories before?
2. Were you already familiar with this biblical story? If so, did *The Woman Who Named God* change any of your preconceptions about the characters in the story?
3. What is your opinion of Sarah's behavior?
4. Do you see Abraham as primarily obedient and faithful to God? Or, do you see him as a rebel?
5. What role does Egypt play in the story?
6. Why do you think Abraham asked Sarah to lie on his behalf?
7. Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice his "favorite son"?
8. What did Hagar gain from each of her departures from the campsite?
9. What role does the desert play in the lives of Abraham and Hagar?
10. Why do you think Hagar names God, "The one who sees me"?
11. Gordon argues that Hagar initiates a new kind of personal relationship with God? Do you agree with this theory?
12. What connection do you see between this story and modern day issues, such as the American invasion of Iraq, or the conflicts in the Middle East?
13. Which aspect of the story did you find most disturbing?
14. Did you find any redemptive moments in the book?
15. What could you do to help inspire interfaith understanding in your community?