

Sara Hagerty – Biography

Author of *Unseen:*

The Gift of Being Hidden in a World That Loves to Be Noticed



Sara Hagerty is a popular author and speaker, but she'll tell you first and foremost, she's a wife to her best friend, Nate, and mother to their six children. Not only are those seven people her heart and soul, but they each represent significant aspects of her journey with God that have led her to a place of quiet, hidden devotion to Him.

She used to believe her walk with Christ needed to be visible and praiseworthy, but the stress of constantly striving for more and more fruit only brought her to a place of burnout.

After coming to Christ as a teenager through the ministry of Young Life, college at the University of Miami in Ohio afforded her the opportunity to start working with teens, sharing the joy she found in Jesus.

Although, the more she saw lives changing around her, the more she wondered about her own. "My passion for ministry ebbed and a vague emptiness took its place," she explained. "I'd have dinner with a teenager who'd just asked Jesus into her heart and find myself mindlessly repeating answers I'd said for years. I knew how to share about God's love with others, but I no longer felt like I was living in it myself. There was a voice in my head that wondered, Am I just saying these things about God, or do I really believe them? So, I'd come home and check in on my heart, carving out space to sit with God and ask that question out loud. Except when I got there, that space and time alone with Him felt awkward—like I was supposed to share the kinds of things you mostly only say in hushed tones to a close friend, but instead this was a conversation with a distant acquaintance."

These questions would eventually guide Sara toward finding the unseen beauty of a hidden life in God. But as it is with most beginnings, first they were unnerving. Sara described, "I knew God was benevolently disposed toward me but I'd always assumed His benevolence was also connected to my *producing* something for His kingdom. When I felt productive in ministry, it wasn't hard to imagine that God had loving thoughts toward me, or that He looked at me with warm affection. I had a harder time trying to imagine what He might be thinking about me during the hours of the day when I wasn't doing anything tangible for Him. What was the expression on His face when I didn't have a trail of changed lives lined up behind mine?"

She discovered layers of God she had never considered when she was barreling through life, when God was only a leader and a coach to her. "Slowly, my desire to see and feel who He was within the pages of His Word prompted me to look at the lines on His face. To take a long and thoughtful look at Him—and not just once. As I did so, I saw that He not only invited me to see Him—in the minutia of stories I'd read for years in order to gain broad themes and lessons—but that He also saw me, right there in my middle minutes. His life on the earth and in these pages held expression. Toward me. When I slowed, I saw that He, too, looked through the layers of me to know and respond to my heart. He wasn't driving me to produce in such a way that all I saw was the back of His shoulders and His firm gait as He charged ahead of me; He was turned toward me and looking into me, with a soft-heartedness and an ever-unfolding invitation. His face held a gentle expression. Loving expression. Toward me, who was doing nothing for Him."

The beauty of living the "unseen" life is what Sara chronicles so gracefully and poetically in her new book, ***Unseen: The Gift of Being Hidden in a World That Loves to Be Noticed***, helping readers to find their identity in relationship with God, rather than in their accomplishments.



“There are times in life when God tucks us away. He might hide us in a difficult job or an unwelcomed circumstance where we feel misunderstood. He might hide us in a crowd where we feel unseen or behind the front door of our home, changing diapers and burping babies. He does this all so that we might see another side of Him, this God who looks deeply and knowingly into us when no one else is looking or noticing, and come alive under that eye.”

The early challenges of her 2001 marriage to Nate (whom she met while they were both working for Young Life) was part of God’s plan to bring Sara to the end of herself, and find new life in God. And then the bitter surprise of

infertility left them both wondering how God would meet them in their desire to build a family. While they had both dreamt of adopting one day, they never imagined it would happen the way it did. But as Sara says, “it was better than we ever imagined.”

Sara and Nate are now parents to six children. The first children in their family were former-orphans from Ethiopia: Eden and Caleb. And then, sooner than expected, from Uganda: Hope and Lily. “The Hagerty line now includes Africans who are my living, breathing reminders of the faithfulness of Jesus.” After 12 years of asking, Nate and Sara welcomed another boy, a biological son named Bo in 2013, and then Virginia, born to Sara and Nate in late 2016.



She started writing a blog, chronicling her journey into adoption a decade ago. Out of these writings came her first published book, ***Every Bitter Thing Is Sweet: Tasting the Goodness of God in All Things*** (Zonderan, October 2014). Sara quickly became a voice of hope and encouragement to millions facing unwanted circumstances in their lives, desperately seeking hope to get through their struggles. As Sara pulled away from the chaos of life and its struggles she met with a God who wanted to meet her every need, desiring to be with her, to know true love apart from accomplishments or circumstances.

Sara and her family live in Missouri where she enjoys early morning runs and reading a book with a warm cup of chai tea.

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Unseen:

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By Sara Hagerty

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