



DISCUSSION GUIDE MAY 14, 2023

Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

Share about a time when you felt insecure and unable to measure up to expectations. Was there someone like Peninnah around to remind you?

Dig Deep

Read Scripture: 1 Samuel 1: 6-18

“⁶Because the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.⁸ Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?” ⁹Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. ¹⁰In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. ¹¹And she made a vow, saying, “Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.” ¹²As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.” ¹⁵“Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. ¹⁶Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.” ¹⁷Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.” ¹⁸She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.”

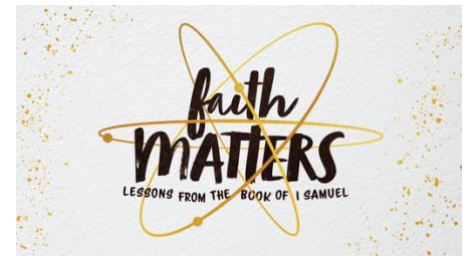
- In verse 8, Elkanah asked 4 questions of Hannah. Do you think she answered? Was she able to feel Elkanah’s love for her?
- What did Hannah say to God? Do you think this was the 1st time she had prayed for a son? How did her vow show Hannah’s priorities?
- Why did Eli rebuke Hannah in v. 14 and then give her a blessing in v. 17?

Do Big

In verse 15 Hannah says she was pouring out her soul to God. What do you do when you pray?

What is something you desperately want or need that you are trying to figure out what you can do to get it? Have you tried putting it in God’s hands and not taking it back?

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LEADERS

Read 1 Samuel 1

Background:

This book is a transition from the time that judges led Israel to a monarchy. Samuel is the last judge and the one that would anoint Israel’s first 2 kings. Here we learn the origins of Samuel. His father Elkanah had 2 wives & seemed to observe the law of Moses by making pilgrimages to the Tabernacle in Shiloh to worship God. His mother Hannah was heartbroken with grief over not being able to have a baby.

Key Thoughts

Perhaps Elkanah took a 2nd wife because Hannah was barren. Polygamy always leads to problems such as jealousy, grief, anger, and malice. Childless women may feel forgotten by God, yet Hannah reached out to God. Hannah’s vow had to be confirmed or nullified by Elkanah so they both agreed their son would be a Nazarite (Numbers 6:1-21) for life.

Challenge

Compare Hannah’s barrenness to that of Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel & Samson’s mother. Do you think closing their wombs might have been God’s way of testing their faith or preparing them for something? What actions did these women take in their desperation to become mothers?

Weekly Memory Verse

“In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.”

1 Samuel 1: 10

