

SECOND DAY: Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8

1. We first meet Hannah in 1 Samuel 1. Her name means *gracious, graciousness and favor*. Read about her unfavorable circumstances in verses 2-8. From verse 2 identify the reasons for her sorrow.
 - a. Think for a moment about what it would have been like for Hannah to deal with these two problems day after day. What affect do you think this must have had on her?

2. From 1 Samuel 1:(3)4-6 describe what happened when they went *yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto Lord of hosts in Shiloh*.

3. Peninnah, Hannah's *rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable* (verse 6a NKJV). Living with a mean-spirited, cruel person can be emotionally devastating. What was the effect of this on Hannah? Answer from 1 Samuel 1:7b.
 - a. According to 1 Samuel 1:8 how did Hannah's husband respond to her emotions and behavior?

4. Read 1 Samuel 1:6a again and focus on the word *adversary*. Hannah's adversary here was Peninnah. As believers we have an adversary, the *devil*. Think about how he tries to provoke and harass you. What vital instruction does 1 Peter 5:8,9 and James 4:7 give us?
 - a. How will following these instructions prevent our becoming discouraged, demoralized or defeated by *our adversary, the devil*?

5. Hannah experienced severe trials. Her rival's attacks and her own childlessness overwhelmed her. She was unaware that the Lord was using her barrenness for His purposes. There are different types of barrenness. With this in mind think of a time you experienced barrenness and share how the Lord used it in your life for His purposes.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8,9

THIRD DAY: Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18

1. Consider what Hannah did about her painful situation as you view the next scene in her story through the lens of 1 Samuel 1:9,10. What do you see?
 - a. How is she an example for you when you are anxious or distraught?
 - b. What instruction is there for us in Luke 18:1b and 1 Peter 5:7?

2. In her brokenness Hannah poured out her heart to the Lord in prayer and asked Him for a son. If the Lord granted her request, what did she promise to do according to 1 Samuel 1:11?
 - a. How does this reveal that she no longer desired a son just for herself but a man for God?

Advanced Students: Research and briefly explain the Nazarite vow referred to in 1 Samuel 1:11.

3. Read 1 Samuel 1:12-18. In your own words recount what happened in verses 12-16 as Hannah *continued praying before the LORD*.
 - a. Look closely at her reaction to being misunderstood and falsely accused. What does this reveal to you about Hannah?
 - b. Consider Eli's priestly blessing in verse 17 and Hannah's response in verse 18. Although her situation had not changed, why do you think Hannah's attitude changed?

4. What hope can you find from the following verses when you feel depressed, heartbroken or overwhelmed:
 - a. Deuteronomy 33:27a

b. Psalm 9:9,10

c. Add other verses if you desire.

*Hear my cry, O God; Attend unto my prayer.
From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee,
when my heart is overwhelmed:
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*
Psalm 61:1,2

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:19,20 and record how Hannah's faith and worship was rewarded.

2. After waiting so long imagine the joy she must have felt at the birth of her own son. She named him Samuel, which means *heard by God*. Briefly describe from 1 Sameul 1:22-28 how Hannah fulfilled her own vow concerning Samuel.
 - a. *And now I am giving him to the Lord for as long as he lives (1 Samuel 1:28a TLB)*. Samuel was probably about three years old when Hannah sacrificially let go of her precious son. How do you think she might have felt about leaving him at the tabernacle with Eli?

 - b. Hannah only had a few years to nurture and train Samuel in the truths of God. What lesson do you see in this for Christian mothers, grandmothers and single women?

3. Take a few moments to reflect on what you have studied today about Hannah. How is she an example for you?

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD.
The fruit of the womb is a reward.*
Psalm 127:3 NKJV

FIFTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11, 18-21

1. Hannah prayed a beautiful prayer the day she left her young son at the tabernacle. Read 1 Samuel 2.1-10 aloud, if possible and listen to her words and what they reveal about her knowledge of God. Now focus on verse 1. What did she express instead of anxiety, grief or regret?

a. How is she a role model for you?

2. Through her worship Hannah praised the character of God. Identify and list a few of Hannah's declarations about God from 1 Samuel 2:2-10.

a. Which one of these stands out the most to you today? Share why.

3. From 1 Samuel 2: 11b, 18 observe and record the result of Hannah's effort, dedication and sacrifice as a mother.

Challenge: Read 1 Samuel 2:26; 1 Samuel 3; 1 Samuel 7:15-17 and write a few things you learn about Samuel.

4. Read 1 Samuel 2:19-21. Hannah never forgot her son. How did she show her love and concern for him throughout his childhood? Answer from 1 Samuel 2:19.

a. According to 1 Samuel 2:20 what did Eli do for Elkanah and Hannah?

b. Look at 1 Samuel 2:21 and consider how God rewarded Hannah for her obedience and faithfulness. What do you see?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. You will recall Hannah's name means gracious, graciousness or favor. What do you see in her life that reflects her name?

2. Share a way Hannah's example might benefit:
 - a. a barren woman

 - b. a mother

3. What have you learned from Hannah's prayer life that you can apply to yours? Be specific.

4. Record a way the study of Hannah's life has:
 - a. influenced you

 - b. encouraged you

 - c. challenged you

5. From this week's study recall one thing about the Lord that particularly ministered to you.

*I cast all my cares upon You,
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet.
And any time that I don't know what to do
I will cast all my cares upon You.*
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