

GOD HEARD HANNAH'S PRAYERS

Through Hannah's prayers and the promise she kept, a prophet came to Israel.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-11

MONDAY

Hannah called upon the Lord in her suffering

Hannah called upon the Lord in her suffering – The house of Elkanah stands in stark contrast to the indifference and sin found in the book of Judges. But each year his two wives argued on their way to Shiloh to worship. Peninnah, who had children, teased Hannah, who had none. Hannah offered up a prayer to the Lord. If God would give her a son she would dedicate him to the Lord's service.

TALK ABOUT IT:

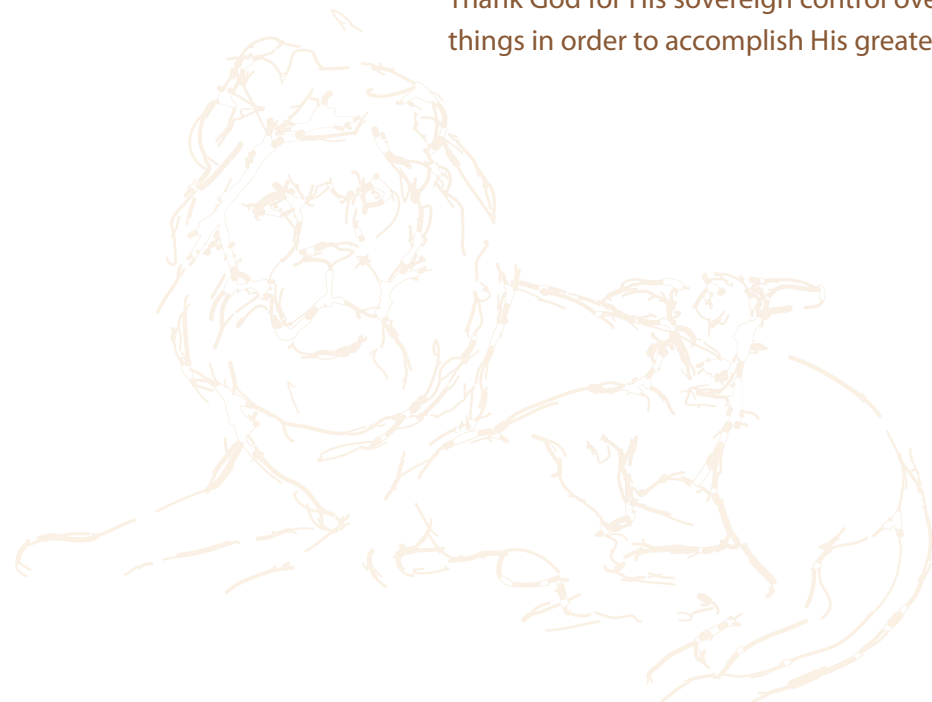
What do we learn about Elkanah and Hannah's relationship with God? *(Both of them are faithful to God as is evident from their trips to the temple, their sacrifices, and Hannah's prayers.)*

Why couldn't Hannah have children? *(Hannah could not have children because the Lord closed her womb. Although this may seem unkind, God had a plan that would bless Hannah in the end.)*

Can you think of a trial in your life that God used to build your faith? *(Parents help your children by jogging their memories for them.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His sovereign control over all things and even for withholding good things in order to accomplish His greater plan.





God answered Hannah's prayers

God answered Hannah's prayers – Eli, the High Priest, saw Hannah praying and thought, at first, that she was drunk. Upon hearing of her troubles, Eli realized he was wrong and offered his own prayer on Hannah's behalf. The high priest was the man designated to mediate between the Israelites and God. (In other words, he prayed to God for the Israelites.) As soon as Hannah returned home, the Lord answered the prayers she and Eli offered.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Eli's prayer strengthen Hannah's faith? *(Immediately upon hearing the prayer of the priest, Hannah was no longer sad. She had a strong faith in God and drew encouragement from Eli's prayers.)*

Can we encourage others by praying for them in their time of need? *(Yes, we can greatly encourage others by praying for them. Sometimes God will give us greater faith for their difficulty than they have.)*

PRAY:

Ask each person in your family to make a request. Then assign someone to pray for each request.



Where is Jesus?

Hannah cried out to the Lord to give her a son and committed him to the Lord for God's service. Little did she realize her little boy would be used to anoint the first two kings of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul and, thus, established anointing as God's means of indicating His choice. Later Samuel anointed David, out of whose household the Savior would be born. Samuel was called a prophet and is credited, as were the other prophets after him, with foretelling the coming of the Messiah.

"Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days." (Acts 3:24)

Hannah also prayed a prophetic prayer when she speaks of an anointed king who will be used of God to judge the ends of the earth (2:10). That king refers to Saul and David, but ultimately points to Christ.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God speak to His people in the days of the Old Testament? *(God spoke to the people through the mouth of the prophets.)*

Who do all the prophets from Samuel on point to? *(All the prophets from Samuel on foretold the days of God's salvation through Jesus Christ.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 1:24 – 2:11

THURSDAY

Hannah fulfilled her vow and celebrated God's faithfulness

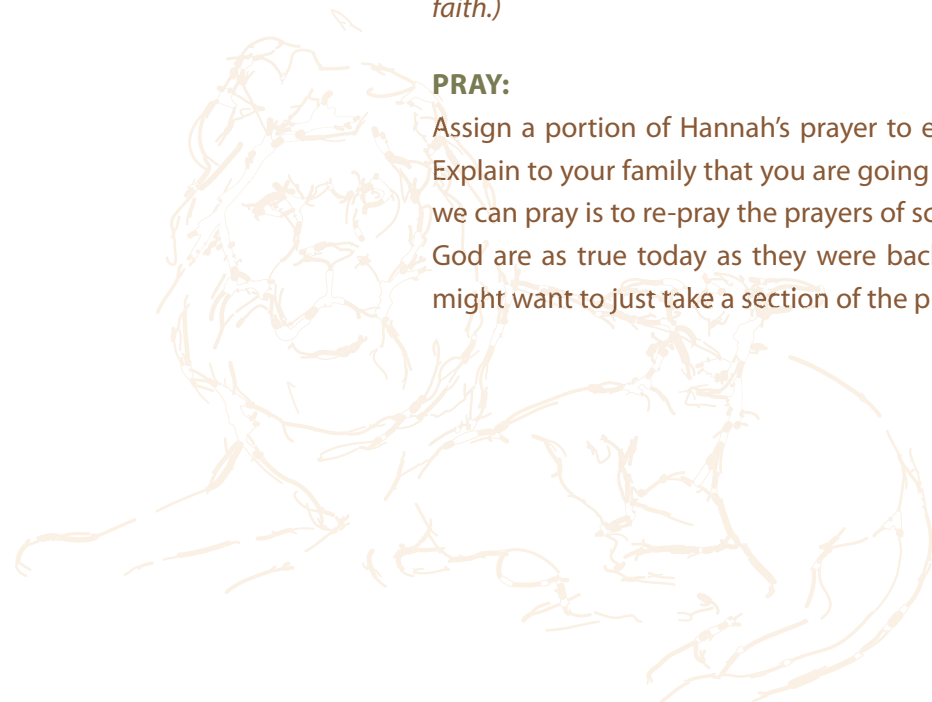
Hannah fulfilled her vow and celebrated God's faithfulness – as soon as Samuel was weaned (age three at the most), Hannah took him back to the temple and presented him to Eli. One would expect Hannah to be grief stricken at giving up her son, but she was so filled with faith that she was joyful and celebrated the goodness of God with a prayer. She was content to give up her son because she knew God would bless him. She visited Samuel once a year after that (1 Samuel 2:18-21). She brought him a robe. God blessed Hannah for her sacrifice by rewarding her with three more sons and two daughters.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What can we learn about Hannah's faith from her prayer? *(Hannah's prayer is full of praises to God. Clearly she was a woman well taught in the truths of God with great faith.)*

PRAY:

Assign a portion of Hannah's prayer to each person in your family who can read. Explain to your family that you are going to pray Hannah's prayer. One of the ways we can pray is to re-pray the prayers of scripture. The things Hannah prayed about God are as true today as they were back then. If you have smaller children you might want to just take a section of the prayer and help each of them through it.





On the road to Emmaus.

Hannah's prayer prophesies of the soon-to-be king Saul and also King David, whom God used mightily. More wonderfully, it points forward to Christ who is the only one who will judge the ends of the earth (see Revelation 6:10).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How are Revelation 6:10 and 1 Samuel 2 similar? *(Both speak of one who will judge those who have done evil on earth.)*

How did God fulfill this prophetic prayer? *(Samuel, Hannah's son, grew up to be a prophet and anoint Saul and David as kings of Israel. These kings are a shadow of the greater King, Jesus.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the sacrificed blood of Christ that protects us from the judgment of God. Thank God that anyone who trusts in Jesus and His finished work on the cross will escape the judgment of God just as the angel of death passed over the homes with the blood of the lamb on their door posts.

