



The Adventure Series:
Samuel' Birth

Samuel 1:6-20
Oct 22nd, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/22186>

A QUOTE TO CONSIDER

"It was one of those times you feel a sense of loss,
even though you didn't have something in the first place.
I guess that's what disappointment is
– a sense of loss for something you never had."
– Deb Caletti

ICE BREAKER

Hannah in the Bible deeply wanted a child, but could not have one.
What is something you really wanted at some point in your life, but were not able to have?
Share the effect that had on you at the time, and the way you related with God and thought about Him.

DEEP DIVE

A) A longing unfulfilled

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:



"Hannah – a woman in the bible was not able to get pregnant – she lived with this heartache for many years. She lived with more than heartache – it was a shame – and it was made even worse – because her husband had another wife – who could get pregnant easily...

And she tormented Hannah – this went on year after year – baby after baby – this went on for years. She even went to church and cried and cried.

Maybe you know that pain too."

Read I Sam 1:6-8 and then answer the following questions:

6) So Peninnah would taunt Hannah and make fun of her because the LORD had kept her from having children. 7) Year after year it was the same—Peninnah would taunt Hannah as they went to the Tabernacle. Each time, Hannah would be reduced to tears and would not even eat. 8) "Why are you crying, Hannah?" Elkanah would ask. "Why aren't you eating? Why be downhearted just because you have no children? You have me—isn't that better than having ten sons?"

- 1) The rival wife Peninnah: Have you ever had someone in your life who was just mean to you? Tell us about that situation. If you tried to do something about it, what happened?

- 2) Hannah's Infertility: When people struggle with infertility today, it is a painful situation, but for a woman in Israel in 1200 BC, describe your understanding of what that would mean for her in that society.

- 3) The husband Elkanah: We see what he says to her as she is crying, but what do you think that says about him?

What was bad about what he said and why?

What could he have said or done that would have been better in that situation?

B) When people assume the worst of us



Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

Hannah is praying – and she is praying in her heart – and it is intense and intimate – she is deeply desiring a child – and once again prays to God for help. She even makes a vow – if I have a baby – a son – I will give him to you – and he will serve you all the days of his life – he will never cut his hair.

Similar to what Samson's vow – Samuel was to dedicate to the Lord as a Nazirite – it was more demanding than just not cutting his hair – no wine – no drinking of any kind – fully devoted to God.

Read I Samuel 1:9-14 and then answer the following questions:

9) Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. 10) Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. 11) And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut." 12) As she was praying to the LORD, Eli watched her. 13) Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking. 14) "Must you come here drunk?" he demanded. "Throw away your wine!"

- 4) Eli the high priest assumed she was drunk. We know how much it hurts when people assume the worst of us. Can you think of a situation where you were tempted to do the exact same thing toward someone else, but instead should have given them the benefit of the doubt? Tell us about that.

- 5) In desperation, Hannah makes a vow to the Lord that if the Lord enables her to have a child - she will give him back to serve the Lord in the tabernacle for his entire life. One the one hand, the child becomes the great prophet Samuel, but on the other hand she will give up her child to be raised by this Priest Eli instead of herself.

Regardless of how that all worked out, what is your opinion of people making religious vows to God today? Do you think it's a good idea? a bad idea? Why?

C) An answered prayer

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:



Maybe he had not seen anyone pray like this – most prayers were memorized – formal – out loud – this was different – he thought she was drunk – she was not.

She corrects him – I am praying. Sometimes the words are just not there – you know what to say to God – but to say them out loud – it just is silence. That is truly ok.

Read I Samuel 1:15-20 and then answer the following questions:

15) "Oh no, sir!" she replied. "I haven't been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD. 16 Don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow." 17 "In that case," Eli said, "go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him." 18 "Oh, thank you, sir!" she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad. 19 The entire family got up early the next morning and went to worship the LORD once more. Then they returned home to Ramah. When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the LORD remembered her plea, 20 and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the LORD for him."

- 6) What can we learn from Hannah's response about how to respond to an authority figure when they have misunderstood something regarding us?

NEXT STEPS

Just as God answered Hannah's prayer for a child with Samuel, often God answers prayer with a "Yes". But many times God has other plans for our lives, and they are frequently hard to understand.

What do you think we should expect from God in terms of our prayers and his answers?

PRAYER

Pray that we would be able to expect more from God in prayer (and not less), and for a willingness to accept whatever his answer may be in our lives.



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Serve with us at ABIDE every 2nd Saturday.
- MILLARD - Serve with us at Heartland Hope every 4th Saturday.
- FREMONT - Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Saturday.
- OMAHA - Serve with us at Open Door Mission every 4th Saturday.
- Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?