

## THE STORY OF HANNAH AND LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

**Love:** How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

**Learn:** What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

**Share:** What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

### **Monday October 17<sup>th</sup> – “Respond with grace or say nothing at all”**

Hannah showed unmatched restraint with her words. She not only knew the right things to say, but also when to say nothing. For years Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife, ridiculed Hannah for her infertility. Yet instead of responding to her tormentor, she kept her mouth shut. During one of the family's annual trips to the tabernacle, Hannah had enough of the ridicule. She didn't lash out at Peninnah, but she knew it was time to do something. She left the dinner table and went straight to God with her plea. Her character was tested when Eli accused her of being drunk. And once again Hannah demonstrated grace and humility through her words. *“Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation”* (1 Samuel 1:16 ESV) By describing herself as Eli's servant, she acknowledged his position of authority. When she could have easily mouthed back at him, she chose to display proper respect.

### **Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – “Eli the priest asked for a child for Hannah more than once.”**

Once Hannah explained herself to Eli, his heart softened. He then reassured her of God's intention to answer her prayer for a son. But that was just the *first* time Eli went to God on Hannah's behalf. Eli was right. God answered her prayer. But the story didn't end when Hannah gave birth to Samuel. It didn't end when she took him to the temple either. Each year Eli blessed Elkanah and Hannah again, asking God to give them more children because of her sacrifice. *“Before they returned home, Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, ‘May the Lord give you other children to take the place of this one she gave to the Lord’”* (1 Samuel 2:20 NLT)

### **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – “Hannah had 5 more children after Samuel”**

God didn't just honor Eli's blessing the first time. God continued to answer the prayers for Hannah. She had two more sons and three daughters while Samuel *“grew up in the presence of the Lord”* (1 Samuel 2:21b NLT).

### **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – “Hannah was the fourth woman in the Bible to suffer through infertility.”**

Before Hannah, three other women endured the despair of not being able to conceive. Sarah was the first, followed by Rebekah and then Rachel. However, Hannah accepted God's promise with unwavering faith. The other three did

not. Sarah laughed at the angel's proclamation that God would give her a child. (Genesis 18:12 NIV) Rebekah questioned, “If all is well, why am I like this?” as her twins struggled in the womb. (Genesis 25:22 NKJV) Rachel gave the responsibility to her husband. (Genesis 30:1) But Hannah trusted God without doubt or concern. Her reverent fear of the Lord was just one more quality of her godly character.

### **Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – “Hannah's famous prayer was a prophecy to the coming Messiah”**

As Hannah dedicated Samuel back to the Lord, she fulfilled her commitment. How hard this must have been for her as a mom! I wonder whether I would have been able to go through with it, but Hannah praised God for her blessing. She thanked Him for His sovereignty. And at the end of her prayer, we find evidence of God's plan for the salvation of all mankind.

*“He gives power to his king; he increases the strength of his anointed one”* (1 Samuel 2:10b). Some scholars believe this verse refers to King David, who Samuel would one day anoint as king over Israel. Yet, according to Matthew Henry Commentary, many theologians claim this verse goes beyond King David to the birth of Jesus. The commentary states, “We have reason to think that this prophecy looks further, to the kingdom of Christ, and the administration of that kingdom of grace... The ancient expositors, both Jewish and Christian, make it to look beyond David to the Son of David.”

### **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – “Where does your story intersect with Hannah's?”**

This week we picked up on the highlights of Hannah's story. We have seen her heartache in being made fun of and the sadness of infertility. We have seen her grace under pressure and her faith in the midst of a broken heart. What part of Hannah's story speaks to you? Are you going through any similar things or is someone that you love? Hannah's story doesn't have a happy ending because she had a child. It is a good story, a Godly story, because she lived with grace and trusted God. Someone can trust and love God and still not be able to have children. We should be careful not to make such assumptions that someone has lost favor with God because some traits of their body create infertility.

**Serve:** Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

**Healing Strength:** Gene Kerbs & Erin Kerbs (family of Eric Kerbs), Charlie Walters, Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

**Homebound Members:** Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

**Military Personnel:** Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark