



Growth Group discussion questions for 1 Samuel 1:1-28
Week of May 13-16, 2018

1. NCC Q36: What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?
A: That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe.
Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite **John 14:16-17**.

2. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on this passage on May 13th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?

3. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 carefully at least twice.

4. Ancient Israel may have tolerated polygamy in a case such as Elkanah's, where there was no heir with his 1st wife. But the practice is a violation of God's standard for marriage (see Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-7) and never receives his approval. What complications and results do we see in this passage for a marriage practice that is not in line with God's design? What can we expect from any cultural marriage practice that is out of line with God's plan?

5. How was Hannah affected by her childlessness? Was her response righteous or not? Why?

6. 1 Samuel 1 is the first time in the Bible that we see the name of God who commands all heavenly powers (1 Samuel 1:3, 11). What does Hannah's appeal to the Lord of hosts tell us about how she understood God?

7. The biblical account of Hannah fits into a long historical narrative of God bringing life out of barrenness. Think of Sarah (Gen. 11:30), Rebekah (Gen. 25:21), Rachel (Gen. 29:31), Manoah's wife (Judg. 13:2-3), and Elizabeth (Lk. 1:7, 36). How is God's promise to bring life from a lifeless womb a shadow of the reality that is fulfilled in Jesus? (Lk. 1:34). Samuel was born into service to God as prophet, priest, and judge. How is this also a picture of Jesus?

8. What personal sacrifice did Hannah have to make to honor her commitment to the Lord? What feelings would you struggle with if you were in Hannah's place? Does Scripture give us any hints as to Hannah's attitude when she gave Samuel to a life of service to God? How does one grow to worship God even over family relationships? (Psalm 73:25-26; Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26-33; Philippians 3:8)

9. How can a parent effectively and practically dedicate their child to the Lord? What does that look like in our time and in our culture?

10. Read Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-11. How does this prayer contrast with her prayer of anguish and desperation in 1 Samuel 1:11-16? How do the words and phrases that Hannah uses to describe God fit with your understanding of God? What lessons about prayer can we learn from Hannah's life?

11. Hannah prayed fervently for a son and God gave her a son. What seemingly impossible need is in your family that you should be passionately praying for?

12. Write your own prayer of praise for something God has done in your life.

PRAY IN THE GROUP

- Next week Cornerstone's ministry leaders will be meeting for a quarterly Leadership Community meeting. Pray for the effectiveness of Cornerstone's ministries. Pray that ministry leaders serve humbly before God and lovingly to their brothers and sisters. Pray that through Cornerstone's ministries that the body of Christ will be built up, that we will be light holding out the gospel to an unbelieving world, and that God will receive all glory.