

After God's Heart

Portrait of Hannah 1 Samuel Chapters 1-2

Lesson 1

FIRST DAY:

Welcome to the Joyful Life Bible Studies! This year we will be studying the attributes and actions of King David and those closely associated with him. David was known as a man after the heart of God. It is our prayer that the study this year will inspire you to be a woman who pursues after God's heart.

Hannah was such a woman. She was deeply distressed by her barrenness and provoked by her rival. Even her husband's love and earnest affection could not give her the comfort she desired. In a place of utter despair Hannah sought after God's heart. He heard her prayer and answered her. The Lord used Hannah's distress to birth a great spiritual leader in Israel.

Are you distressed? Are circumstances beyond your control pressing in on you? Are you enduring persecution? Read Hannah's story and observe how she sought the Lord in her distress.

1. Read the following passages and comment on how Hannah sought after God's heart. Include a title for each section if you wish:
 - a. 1 Samuel 1:1-11
 - b. 1 Samuel 1:12-18
 - c. 1 Samuel 1:19-28
 - d. 1 Samuel 2:1-10, 20-21
2. As we begin this study on pursuing after God's heart, ask the Lord to prepare your heart to comprehend, receive, believe, and apply the glorious truths He has for you. Write your prayer here.

Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.
1 Samuel 1:17

SECOND DAY: Read 1 Samuel 1:1-11

1. Briefly identify the following characters introduced in 1 Samuel 1:1-11.
 - a. Elkanah
 - b. Peninnah
 - c. Hannah
 - d. Eli
2. What was the main distinction between Hannah and Peninnah? 1 Samuel 1:2
 - a. According to 1 Samuel 1:5b, why did Hannah have *no children*?
 - (1) What does this reveal about her situation?
 - b. How was Hannah treated by Peninnah? 1 Samuel 1:6-7
 - (1) Is there a person in your life behaving like Peninnah? If so, briefly describe the offense.
3. Describe Elkanah's attitude toward Hannah from 1 Samuel 1:5, 8.
 - a. Why do you suppose Elkanah was unable to comfort Hannah?
4. According to 1 Samuel 1:9-10, what did Hannah do in response to her grievous trial?
 - a. How does Psalm 61:1-2 encourage you to respond to overwhelming circumstances?
5. Summarize Hannah's vow from 1 Samuel 1:11.
 - a. In stating that *no razor shall come upon his head*, Hannah was declaring that if she had a son he would be a Nazirite from birth. (See Numbers 6:1-8.) What does this convey concerning the motivation behind Hannah's vow?
 - b. Print 2 Timothy 1:12b.
 - (1) What do you need to commit to God's keeping?
 - (2) Write a prayer committing that person or thing to the Lord.

THIRD DAY: Read 1 Samuel 1:12-18

1. Use 1 Samuel 1:12-13 to describe Hannah's demeanor as she prayed.
 - a. What did Eli wrongly conclude from this? 1 Samuel 1:13-14

2. How did Hannah respond to Eli's accusation? 1 Samuel 1:15-16
 - a. Summarize Hannah's explanation of her actions.
 - b. What does this denote about Hannah?
 - c. How do you handle being misunderstood?

3. What was Eli's answer to Hannah? 1 Samuel 1:17

4. Describe Hannah's actions after she *went her way*. 1 Samuel 1:18
 - a. Compare her demeanor in 1 Samuel 1:18 with that of 1 Samuel 1:15-16. What do you see?
 - (1) What do you think caused this change? See also Psalm 73:16-17.
 - (2) Share a time when your perspective was changed by God.

5. How does Hannah's faith minister to you?

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28

1. According to 1 Samuel 1:19a, what did Elkanah's family do before they returned home to Ramah?
 - a. The name *Samuel* means *heard by God*. Why would this name be so significant to Hannah?
 - b. Share a special time when you were *heard by God*.
 - c. According to 1 Samuel 1:20 *it came to pass in the _____ _ ____*. What does this convey to you about answers to prayer?

3. Why didn't Hannah go with Elkanah to offer the *yearly sacrifice*? 1 Samuel 1:21-22
 - a. Elkanah allowed Hannah to remain, yet he gave her an important reminder in 1 Samuel 1:23. Record it here.
 - (1) Why do you think Elkanah said this to Hannah?

4. What did Hannah do after she had weaned Samuel? 1 Samuel 1:24-25

5. What was Hannah's testimony to Eli in 1 Samuel 1:26-28?
 - a. Record a testimony of God's faithfulness in your life.
 - b. How do you respond to answered prayer?

1. As you study Hannah's praise, keep in mind that Hannah and Elkanah were leaving their only son at the tabernacle in Shiloh. How does this add power to the prayer of praise that Hannah offered?

2. List a few of the attributes of God declared by Hannah in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

a. Which of these attributes speak most clearly of Hannah's testimony?

b. Which of these attributes speak most clearly of your testimony?

3. Record your favorite phrase of praise from Hannah's prayer.

Optional: Find the similarities between Hannah's praise and Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55.

4. Read 1 Samuel 2:20-21 and note how the Lord honored Hannah after these events.

5. Write your own word of praise for an answered prayer in your life.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. How is Hannah an inspiration to you in the following ways:
 - a. How she responded to provocation -1 Samuel 1:7

 - b. How she dealt with grief - 1 Samuel 1:10

 - c. How she reacted to being misunderstood -1 Samuel 1:15-16

 - d. How she responded to God's promise -1 Samuel 1:17-18

 - e. How she kept her word - 1 Samuel 1:24

 - f. How she praised the Lord - 1 Samuel 2:1-10

My heart rejoices in the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:1