



2

Our God Hears

DOES
GOD
HEAR MY
PRAYERS?



The POINT >

God desires a relationship with us as we seek Him.

> 1 SAMUEL 1:1-8,12-20,26-28

¹There was a man from Ramathaim-zophim in the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ²He had two wives, the first named Hannah and the second Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah was childless. ³This man would go up from his town every year to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of Armies at Shiloh, where Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were the LORD's priests. ⁴Whenever Elkanah offered a sacrifice, he always gave portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to each of her sons and daughters. ⁵But he gave a double portion to Hannah, for he loved her even though the LORD had kept her from conceiving. ⁶Her rival would taunt her severely just to provoke her, because the LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving. ⁷Year after year, when she went up to the LORD's house, her rival taunted her in this way. Hannah would weep and would not eat. ⁸"Hannah, why are you crying?" her husband, Elkanah, would ask. "Why won't you eat? Why are you troubled? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

¹²While she continued praying in the LORD's presence, Eli watched her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying silently, and though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard.

Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" ¹⁵ "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD. ¹⁶ Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment." ¹⁷ Eli responded, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request you've made of him." ¹⁸ "May your servant find favor with you," she replied. Then Hannah went on her way; she ate and no longer looked despondent. ¹⁹ The next morning Elkanah and Hannah got up early to worship before the LORD. Afterward, they returned home to Ramah. Then Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, "I requested him from the LORD."

²⁶ "Please, my lord," she said, "as surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷ I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD gave me what I asked him for, ²⁸ I now give the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." Then he worshipped the LORD there.





THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

In the US, football is the most popular high school sport for boys, and track and field is the most popular among girls.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

We can trust that God is not distant—He hears the prayers of those who seek and pursue Him.

I remember a time when I prayed really hard for something—I mean the kind of prayer where you're hoping with everything in you. I was trying out for a team I'd wanted to be on for years. I practiced, gave it everything I had, and asked God over and over to let it happen. But when the list went up, my name wasn't on it. I was crushed. I couldn't understand why God didn't give me what I asked for. But later, that disappointment opened doors for new opportunities I never saw coming. I realized God hadn't ignored me; He was preparing me.

In today's story, we meet Hannah, who knew what it felt like to pour her heart out to God. She prayed desperately for a child, not with fancy words, but with raw emotion. Her prayer was so intense that Eli, the priest, thought she was drunk. But God heard her, and not just the words—He heard her pain, her longing, and her heart. And He responded in His timing. Hannah's story reminds us that God isn't distant. He's close. He listens. And even when we don't understand His timing, He's working for something greater than we can imagine.

1 SAMUEL 1:1-8

1 How can you keep showing up in prayer and worship even when you feel disappointed or overlooked by God?

2 In what area of your life are you being called to practice steady, quiet faith like Hannah?

1 SAMUEL 1:12-18

3 How can you learn to pour out your soul honestly to God?

4 What's something in your life right now that you need to give fully to God, even if He hasn't answered yet?

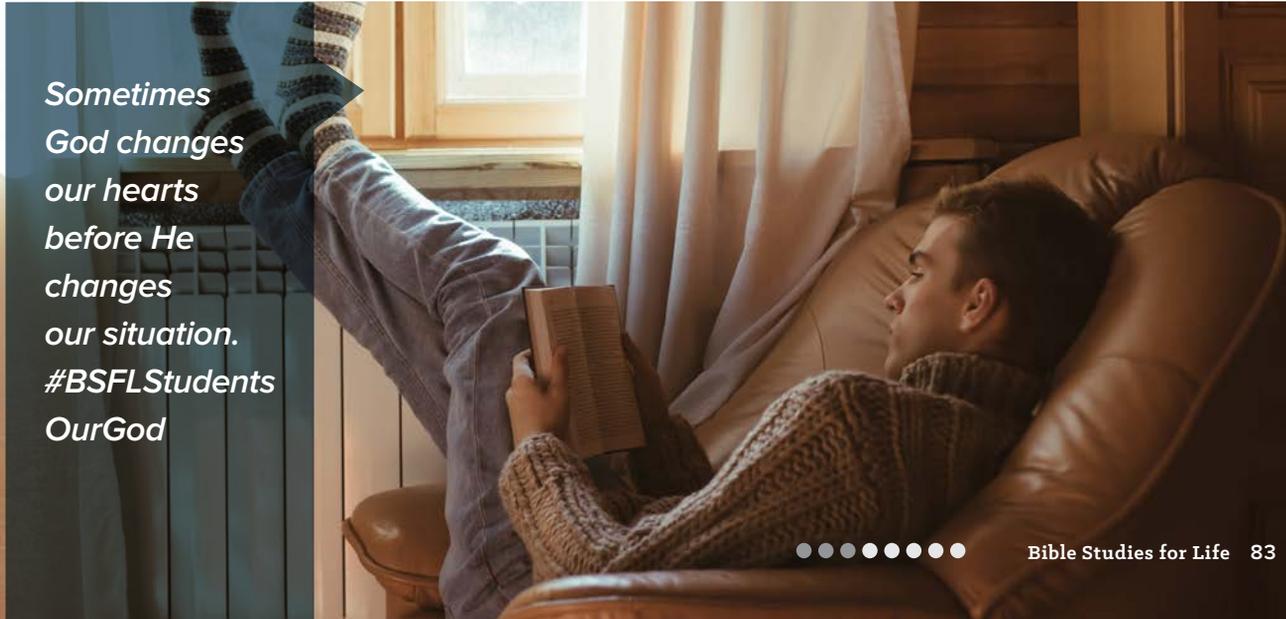
5 What would it look like for you to trust God's timing in your own situation?

1 SAMUEL 1:19-20,26-28

6 Like Hannah, how can you respond to answered prayer with worship and surrender?

7 What does it look like to focus more on dedicating answers to prayer to the Lord instead of using them for our own gain?

8 How could your perspective on prayer change if you saw it less as a way to get what you want and more to be shaped by God's heart?



*Sometimes
God changes
our hearts
before He
changes
our situation.
#BSFLStudents
OurGod*



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

We can trust that God is not distant—He hears the prayers of those who seek and pursue Him.

“Does God hear me when I look up to the sky and pray to Him?” I had a middle school student ask me this one time. His follow-up question wasn’t as deep as I thought it might have been after that intro, but it reminded me that students think about their connection to God. Questions such as, “Will He give me what I want?” or “Will He do this for me?” fill their minds at times. For some students, they wonder if God even hears them because of all the brokenness they see around them. In this lesson, students will be reminded that prayer is more about relationship than the words we say.

> CHRIST

9 Hannah brought her deepest pain and longing to God in honest prayer. What are some things that could prevent you from going to Jesus with your own struggles and desires?

10 How does trust like Hannah’s speak to the way Jesus calls us to release control and believe that God’s plans are good?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD



> COMMUNITY

11 How can you help create an environment where people feel safe to be vulnerable and are met with compassion that allows us to pray for one another?

12 How can you support others in using what they've been given (time, talents, resources, etc.) to serve others, not just themselves?

> CULTURE

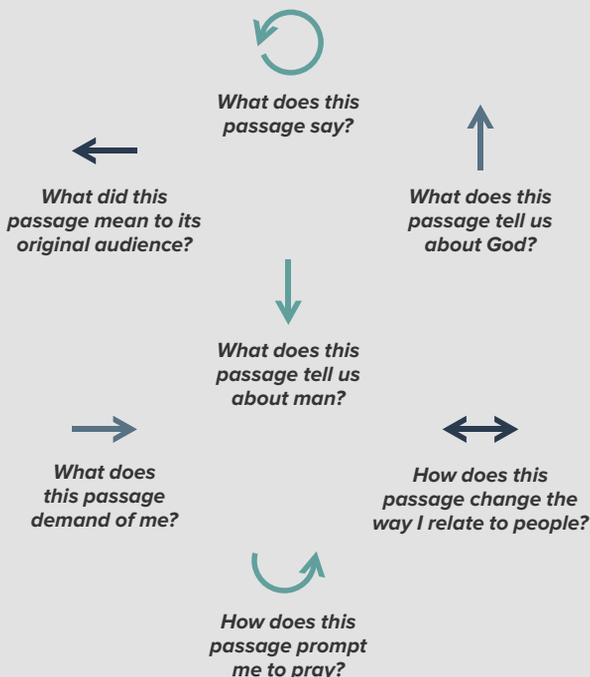
13 How can you follow God's example of leading with generosity and compassion, especially when society focuses on self-promotion and individual gain?

14 How can you develop a habit of gratitude in your community and remember that God hears and answers, even when the answer takes time?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One PSALM 34:17

In this verse, we're given confidence that the Lord hears and delivers the righteous when they cry out. God is very attentive to the cries of His people, especially during difficult times. We have all been in those places where we cried out to God in a difficult season of life, and we are assured that God is not distant or disinterested, but He is actively listening to the needs of those who trust in Him. We know that life won't be free from trouble—that's just the reality of living in a fallen and broken world—but we do know that when we call on God, He will respond. God hears our prayers, He knows our struggles, and He cares for our pain.

The really good news is that this isn't just a future promise but rather a present circumstance. In fact, God's deliverance might come in different ways—sometimes through direct intervention, and other times it might come through His provision of strength and courage. The important thing to remember is that God does not abandon His people in their suffering. He is always present with us in our times of troubles and will bring us through to a place of peace and restoration.

- **What do you think it means when the verse says God hears the cries of the righteous?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that God listens to you when you're having a tough time?**

Day Four

ROMANS 12:12

Sometimes it can feel like hope is fragile, and the wait for a breakthrough seems like forever. It can feel like we're dancing on a thin line—holding on to faith and yet struggling with fear. Our confidence is to hold on with joy, even when nothing around us changes. To rejoice in hope is not to ignore the pain but to anchor ourselves in the certainty that God sees and is at work. There is nothing worse than feeling out of control, and yet we must constantly tell ourselves that God is in control! Patience in tribulation requires a peaceful strength, an unwavering ability to trust when answers are delayed and emotions run deep. This is not natural to us, but it is possible by nurturing the soil of faith where we learn to trust that our tears are not wasted and God is at work. This is why constant prayer is what keeps us steady when times are good and bad. When prayer goes from ritual to communion in the midst of the unknown, our return to God goes from situational to habitual in nature. God is the only One who knows us, understands us, knows our situation, and is able to sustain us in the waiting. He lifts our hope when we cannot do it ourselves and kindles our joy, not by what we see, but because we know who God is and that He is good.

- **What does it mean to be joyful in hope?**
- **How can having hope help you feel encouraged even when things are tough?**

Day Five

PSALM 40:1



Sometimes it can be tough to ask for help. Other times, we have no problem seeking assistance. However, there are moments in life when our hearts cry out to God in quiet desperation and waiting becomes a daily act of faith. Waiting can easily cause panic. We don't have the answers, we don't know the timing, and it all rests on the Lord's direction, which is wonderful and scary at the same time. Waiting patiently doesn't mean waiting without pain; it means choosing to trust that God is not indifferent to our situation but is working in ways we can't know. Patience is a declaration of trust in God's perfect timing and sustenance in the face of adversity. We need to take comfort in the fact that the act of waiting becomes holy when we realize it draws us into deeper dependence on God; He answers not out of obligation but out of love for us, His children. Though the answers may not come as quickly as we hope, His response always comes at the right moment. God is always on time. And it's in these moments we learn that God's nearness in the waiting is often more powerful than the answer.

- **What do you think it means to wait patiently for the Lord?**
- **How can waiting for God's help make you feel more calm?**