

Session 05

A Prayer **ANSWERED**

CENTRAL TRUTH | The Lord is worthy of worship, and our purpose is found in Him alone.

Many of us are willing to do extreme or silly things to get what we want. Whether it's dressing up a certain way to receive free sandwiches from your favorite restaurant for a year, going all out with your outfits for an award during your school's spirit week, or commenting on and sharing a social media post to win a specific item or trip. In these examples, what we give up in exchange for what we want is minimal. But other rewards require years of hard work, dedication, and even sacrifice. Today, we'll read about Hannah, who had prayed desperately for a son (see 1 Sam. 1), fulfilling her promise to dedicate her son Samuel to serve the Lord. Through the beginning of the story of Samuel—priest, judge, and prophet—we see that the Lord is worthy of worship, and our purpose is found in Him alone.

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

1 SAMUEL 2:1-6

¹ Hannah prayed: My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is lifted up by the LORD. My mouth boasts over my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. ² There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one besides you! And there is no rock like our God. ³ Do not boast so proudly, or let arrogant words come out of your mouth, for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and actions are weighed by

him. ⁴ The bows of the warriors are broken, but the feeble are clothed with strength. ⁵ Those who are full hire themselves out for food, but those who are starving hunger no more. The woman who is childless gives birth to seven, but the woman with many sons pines away. ⁶ The LORD brings death and gives life; he sends some down to Sheol, and he raises others up.

1 SAMUEL 2:7-11

⁷ The LORD brings poverty and gives wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the trash heap. He seats them with noblemen and gives them a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; he has set the world on them. ⁹ He guards the steps of his faithful ones, but the wicked perish in

darkness, for a person does not prevail by his own strength. ¹⁰ Those who oppose the LORD will be shattered; he will thunder in the heavens against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to his king; he will lift up the horn of his anointed. ¹¹ Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy served the LORD in the presence of the priest Eli.

1 SAMUEL 3:19-21

¹⁹ Samuel grew. The LORD was with him, and he fulfilled everything Samuel prophesied. ²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the

LORD. ²¹ The LORD continued to appear in Shiloh, because there he revealed himself to Samuel by his word.

Day 01

1 SAMUEL 2:1-6



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? Hannah had prayed desperately for a child, even vowing to give the child to the Lord if He would give her one. Her rival taunted her for not having children. Hannah urgently called out to the Lord, and she had Samuel. Good to her word, she dedicated Samuel to serve the Lord in the tabernacle. Today, we read the first part of her prayer of thanks. Though she waited a long time for her son, she praised God for His sovereignty and His good works. When we're in the middle of waiting, we don't always feel like rejoicing. Our trust can fade in the waiting, but God is worthy of our worship while we wait.

🔄 Underline in your Bible (or write out a list here) of the characteristics of God Hannah praises.

↓ Why is waiting so difficult? How does Hannah's prayer show us that waiting and depending on the Lord is good?

↔ How can you encourage others who may be in a season of waiting?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Samuel 2:2** on a notecard. Read the passage out loud five times. Next, read it in a whisper five times. Finally, say it in your head with your eyes closed five times.

📍 PRAY

Lord, as Hannah prayed, "There is no one holy like the LORD." You are worthy of all praise. When I'm in a season of waiting, remind me of Your goodness and help my trust to remain strong.

Day 02

1 SAMUEL 2:7-11

📍 READ & RESPOND

Today, we read the second part of Hannah's prayer. She continued praising God, and she reminds us that God controls the details of our lives. He has the power to transform our lives, and He protectively guides the steps of His faithful ones. He is the source of any victory we have because we cannot prevail in our own strength. All good things in our lives come from Him. Jesus tells us, "You can do nothing without me" (John 15:5). Do you ever stop and think about how good God has been to you? How He has empowered, gifted, and protected you? How He has cared, delivered, and provided for you? We are nothing without Him, and He is worthy of our praise!

↑ What does Hannah's prayer tell us about God's character?

↓ What does Hannah's prayer remind us about our own power and capabilities? About the successes and good things we have in this life?

↔ If God is the source of our strength, wealth, and power, how does that change how you see other people's successes?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Samuel 2:2** on a piece of paper or notecard. On the back, write only the first letter of every word, including punctuation. Keep attempting this until you get every word in the right order.

📍 PRAY

Lord, You are so good to me. Remind me when I forget that You alone are my source, and I can do nothing without You. Continue to guard my steps and lead me in Your purpose!

Day 03

1 SAMUEL 3:19-21

📍 READ & RESPOND

Samuel had a special call on his life, even from a young boy. Today's passage talks about how the Lord was at work throughout Samuel's life. A judge, a prophet, anointer of two kings—Samuel was successful because “the LORD was with him.” As we read in Hannah's prayer earlier this week, the Lord was the source of Samuel's success (see 1 Sam. 2:9). He is the source of ours as well. When we walk faithfully with the Lord and recognize our dependence on Him, He makes our path straight and our purpose clear.



What actually happens to Samuel as he grows up, and what does the Lord do?



How do you need to be more attentive to God's voice?



How can you ask God to make your heart more sensitive to His leading this week?

📍 MEMORIZE

Instead of writing out **1 Samuel 2:2** in words, draw the verse using icons or symbols. Translating the passage into images helps you to process the meaning of the words.

📍 PRAY

Father, I want to be a faithful servant like Samuel. I recognize that You are my source of strength and success. I am completely dependent on You.

Day 04

PSALM 100:1-5

📍 READ & RESPOND

Today's psalm, like Hannah's prayer, is full of gratitude and praise of the Lord. And we are reminded that "He made us, and we are his." He is the source of our life. He is our Creator, and we are responsible to Him. But we also praise Him because He is good (v. 5). The goodness of the Lord is a defining characteristic. As sinners in a broken world, we do not deserve the goodness of God, nor His faithful love. Yet He loves us and cares for us anyway.

🔄 List the actions that the psalmist calls the reader to do in response to the Lord.

↑ What does this psalm teach you about how God feels about His people? What's your reaction to that truth?

→ When you receive something you don't deserve, how do you respond? How, then, should you respond to God's goodness and faithful love?

📍 MEMORIZE

Record yourself reading **1 Samuel 2:2** different ways: (1) in a normal voice, (2) in a whisper, (3) as fast as you possibly can. Can you think of other ways? Be sure to listen back to the recordings throughout the week.

📍 PRAY

Lord, You are good and worthy of all praise. I am so grateful for how You love me and care for me.

Day 05

HEBREWS 11:32-34

📍 READ & RESPOND

We wrap up this week with the book of Hebrews' chapter of the faithful, and Samuel is among the many servants of faith listed. His story began with a faithful mother, who honored her promise to the Lord for blessing her with a son. She dedicated Samuel to the service of the Lord. The Lord was with him and grew Samuel into an important leader for the Israelites. Samuel found his purpose in serving the Lord. God is the source of our life and our purpose. We must depend on Him for every success. And in times of waiting, like Hannah, trust the Lord, lean into His goodness, and find strength in His faithful love.

🔄 What specifically does this passage list as the results of faith for heroes like Samuel?

↑ What does this tell us about God's role in giving people victory and strength?

↔ How can your faith encourage someone else who feels like they are failing?

📍 MEMORIZE

Rewrite **1 Samuel 2:2** in today's modern language. You could even text-speak it, but be sure to keep the theology accurate! Paraphrasing in everyday language ensures we comprehend what we're trying to memorize.

📍 PRAY

Lord, thank You for being the source of my strength. When I feel weak or overwhelmed, remind me that You are with me.