

# **GROWTH + GROUPS**

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## **Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide**

### **HANNAHS PRAYER**

**1 Samuel 1:1- 2:11 (SB 05.08.2022)**

#### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

As Hannah brought her son to the tabernacle to serve the Lord, Hannah was filled with praise to the Lord for giving her a son. This caused her to pray a prayer that speaks of the greatness of the Lord. In this prayer Hannah also recognized the holiness of God. Because God is so great and holy, we should not have pride because we are nothing in comparison to the Lord. The Lord is the One that has given us all that we have. The Lord is the One that kills and makes alive. The Lord is also the One that makes a person either poor or rich. Hannah recognized that the Lord is the One that is the source of all things and that He is the One that works in our lives. Let's get into our study...

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Danny's sermon?
2. If you were to make a list of ten items you wanted and you were promised that you would get those items, what sorts of things would you put on your list?
3. What are some desires that people have that cannot be bought with money?

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

##### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 1:1-18**

**We like things! Companies spend billions of dollars a year on advertising to make certain that we want their things instead of someone else's things. It's fun to get a larger house, a new car, or a cool shirt. But some things cannot be bought with money, and often, these are the things we long for the most. We long for love, companionship, health, and safety for our loved ones. Many people have spent night after night in prayer to God, sometimes bargaining with Him, in order to get the things their hearts most desire. Today we will look at Hannah's story. Hannah longed for a child, but was unable to conceive. Hannah did only what she knew to do: she poured her heart out to the Lord in prayer, and by His grace, He answered her plea for a child.**

1. Have you ever had a deep burden like Hannah? How important is prayer for you during those times of difficulty?

Hannah's pain could only be helped by the Lord. She could do nothing about her husband's other wife's taunting, and Elkanah could not understand why Hannah was so upset. He could not understand why she wanted a child so badly, and he seemed to feel that her longing for a child showed that she did not appreciate how good he had been to her. Though the Scripture says that Elkanah loved Hannah, his attempt to comfort her only made matters worse. We all have these times of difficulty in life, and the best thing for us to do is to follow Hannah's example: take our troubles to the Lord in prayer. In verse 18, we see that Hannah's prayer helped: "She ate and no longer looked despondent."

2. Have you ever tried to make a bargain with the Lord for something you wanted? Do you think that this was wise?

Hannah made a vow that she would give her son to the Lord if He would allow her to conceive. In times of distress, people often bargain with the Lord to try and get His attention. Once such a vow is made to the Lord, it must be kept, or we sin.

## **BREAKTHROUGH!** in 2022

However, we do not need to bargain with the Lord with anything except His own promises to us. Jesus said, “I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you” (John 16:23). We know that the Father will give us anything we need in this life, and we know that He always hears us when we call to Him. This doesn’t mean He will give us everything we want, but He will certainly provide for our needs.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 1:20-28**

1. What do you think of Hannah’s actions here? How difficult do you think it was for Hannah to fulfill her vow to the Lord?

The longing of Hannah’s heart was to have a child, and now that the Lord had answered that prayer, she had to give that child away. Though this must have been tremendously difficult for Hannah to do, it was a beautiful act of worship to God. Hannah gave her son, the one whom she wanted most, to the Lord for His service forever. Though we may not have to give our sons and daughters away exactly as Hannah did, we ought to give everything that is precious to us to the Lord as an act of devotion to Him. All of our money, relationships, health, and belongings ought to be used in the service of the Lord for His glory.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 2:1-11**

1. What do you think of Hannah’s prayer here? What thoughts or emotions come to mind? What do you think of her prayer being a poem?

This prayer of Hannah’s is not just a prayer, it is also a poem, and quite possibly, it was a song as well. The time and care she took to compose this demonstrates Hannah’s deep devotion to the Lord and her gratitude toward Him for answering her prayers.

2. What do you think Hannah’s point is in verse 5?

Hannah’s prayer in this verse is a word of caution. She warns us that even if we have all that we need, like being full of food or having many sons, if we are not grateful to the Lord it will never be enough. “The woman with many sons pines away” because she does not know or understand the blessings of the Lord.

3. Have you ever been in the place Hannah sings about, where you had all you wanted but you weren’t full? Describe a time when your ungratefulness led you to feeling empty.
4. Hannah is able to find joy and contentment, not just because she had Samuel, but because she loved the Lord. Can you say the same thing about yourself right now?

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.**

1. How should our unfulfilled desires lead us to prayer?
2. Do you think that being better prayers will make us better worshippers? How so?
3. How important is it to remember to give thanks for the prayers that God has answered? How do we thank Him when the answer seems to be “no”?

**PRAYER:** In a time of group prayer, ask the Father to help us be a people of prayer. Thank the Father for always hearing our requests and answering our prayers as His children. Pray that we will remember to be thankful and worship Him for always answering our prayers.

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Eph. 6:18*