

Mother's Day

Scripture and Background Information for May 09-15

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Last Sunday, we celebrated Mother's Day. The sermon on Mother's Day was an encouragement and charge for moms to pray for their children, bless them, and give them back to God. Today, we will come back to the text, looking at **1Samuel 2:1-11**, and talk about how all of us can live out that charge regardless of whatever position the Lord has us in life.

Background for 1Samuel 2:1-11:

1 Samuel 1 tells us that Hannah struggled with infertility. In a time when retirement planning relied on children, Hannah faced - *next to the emotional difficulties* - a difficult present and future. Hannah went to the temple and prayed to God for help and God answered her prayer; she gave birth to her first son, Samuel! Hannah had promised that she would give her child back to the Lord, and she kept her promise.

Today, our text deals with Hannah's prayer after she brought Samuel to the temple to dedicate him to the Lord. Her prayer shows the awe and faith Hannah had in the Lord. Her prayer shows that Hannah understood one main thing: God is in control of our life. Thus, Hannah was willing to give God her only son since she knew God would take care of her and her son Samuel. Later, God blessed Hannah for her faith and obedience. (1Sam 2:18-21)

Hannah's prayer might include several confusing thoughts for the modern reader. Here are several insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. When working through the prayer, note the contrasting ideas Hannah mentions. She constantly contrasts God's power and majesty compared to man's inability to control life. Why might that be a key theme she was pondering in this moment?
2. When Hannah talks about her "horn" exalted in the Lord, she uses an Old Testament picture, which represents strength. What are some places that we are often tempted to look to find strength rather than the Lord?
3. Note, Hannah gave her first (at this moment, her only) child back to the Lord. Note, her Joy was not in the gift, but in the Giver! How do we get to a point where we love the Giver more than the gift?

Note: Hannah serves as an example of what we ought to do. We give God back what he gives us because our ultimate fulfillment is in Him!

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

May 16-22

1Cor 12