

It seems that Hannah's hope has shifted, from hope in her value with society, to hope in God and His purposes. What can we learn from this?

In this Sunday's sermon we looked at three applications to the story:

1. **God's power begins to work at your point of hopelessness**

What does that statement teach you personally?

2. **God will use your suffering, but don't assume you can decipher how**

Discuss.

3. **Hold on**

What are you holding onto at the moment?

Close in prayer

Thank God for what He teaches us through His Word. Pray that God would help us to be emotionally real with Him in our prayer. Pray that God would help us to trust Him when we don't always see positive outcomes. Pray for each other, that we hold onto God through all times, good and not-so-good.



After God's Own Heart -DAVID-

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 1

7 May 2023

"A Prayer for David"

1 Samuel 1: 1-20

Series Overview:

Over seven weeks, we will study and reflect on a central character in the Old Testament; David. We will look at events leading up to his birth, as well as his development and faith in God. Our prayer is that we will grow closer to God through viewing the life of God's servant and friend called David; a man after God's own heart.

As we start this new series called David, "After God's Own Heart", discuss what you know about David of the Old Testament.

What stories of David are you most familiar with?

Do you know any parts of the Bible that were written by David? Discuss.

We are starting this series with a passage not so much about David, but events that lead up to the stories of David.

Read 1 Samuel 1: 1-20

This story is about a woman and an impossible birth. Can you think of other stories in the Bible that have a similar theme?

Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. What was Hannah's difficulties compared to Peninnah?

What did Elkanah do for Hannah to try and ease her pain? (v.5) How did that work out? (v.6)

Keep in mind that this situation went unresolved for many years. Walter Brueggemann (O.T. Scholar) wrote, "In any ancient culture, barrenness was a metaphor for hopelessness" What feelings do you have for Hannah? Can you relate to Hannah?

Read again the prayer of Hannah (v.10-11).

In today's sermon, we looked at 3 things about Hannah's prayer:

1. Prayer that was emotionally real

Reflect on v.10. Has that ever happened to you?

Read Romans 8: 26. How does this help us in our difficulties? How does this help us in our prayer life?

2. Prayer that changes from Hannah focused, to God focused

Reflect on v.11. We heard in this Sunday's sermon, that for an Israelite to be a priest, they needed to come from the tribe of Levi. A non-Levite could become a priest if they took a Nazarite vow which included not cutting their hair. This information suggests that Hannah was willing to commit any child she bore to God. We can see that in this prayer, Hannah's prayer moves from self-focussed to God focussed. What can we learn from this?

Read 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9. Can you see the move in Paul's prayer from self-focussed to God focussed? How does this help us in our prayer life?

3. Hannah experienced peace before God answered prayer

Reflect on v.18. What has changed in Hannah?