

9 Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. **10** Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. **11** And she made this vow: “O LORD of Heaven’s Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut.”

12 As she was praying to the LORD, Eli watched her. **13** Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking. **14** “Must you come here drunk?” he demanded. “Throw away your wine!”

15 “Oh no, sir!” she replied. “I haven’t been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD. **16** Don’t think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow.”

17 “In that case,” Eli said, “go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him.”

18 “Oh, thank you, sir!” she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad.

—1 Samuel 1:9-18

Discussion/Journal Questions

By yourself or as a group, read all of Hannah’s story in 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11. In your own words, what is Hannah going through? Why is she upset and what does she do?

How does Hannah demonstrate bold faith?

What promise does Hannah make to God and how does she keep her promise?

Read 1 Peter 5:7. Do you believe that God cares for you? Why or why not?

How do we live life differently if we believe that God does care for us?

How can your group pray for you this week? How can you encourage and pray for them?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?