



**Great Prayers of the Bible
Selected Scripture**

Moses - Numbers 14:11-38

God delivered his people from Egypt. About two years later after the people made a covenant with God, received the law of God, and made a tabernacle for God's presence, they were ready to go into the promised land. Spies scouted the land. The report was mixed. Ten spies acknowledged the land was plentiful and beautiful, but it also contained fortified cities and giants. They feared the people would be destroyed if they tried to move into the land. Two spies disagreed about the outcome if they went in because Joshua and Caleb believed God would give them the victory. The people listened to the majority and God was not pleased. He told Moses he was going to destroy the people and start over with Moses. However, Moses prayed on behalf of the people. We learn these things from Moses' prayer. *When we pray, God acts. Praying back to God His Word helps us remember that prayer is a conversation, not just asking for things. We should pray for others.*

Hannah - 1 Samuel 1 and 2:1-11

Hannah was in an unusual marriage. She was married to her husband Elkanah, but he was also married to Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah didn't. Elkanah sincerely loved Hannah, but Peninnah taunted Hannah unmercilessly. One time when the family went to the tabernacle to offer their sacrifices, Hannah who was deeply hurt, wept as she prayed for God to give her a son. From Hannah's prayers will learn: *Prayer is an appropriate response to desperate situations. When we bargain with God, we must be ready to keep our end of the bargain. Prayer can give us peace in the midst of turmoil. Praise is the response to answered prayer.*

Nehemiah - Nehemiah 1:4-10

Nehemiah served as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia. The Jews had returned to Jerusalem about 90 years earlier. Yet the walls and gates of the city were still in ruins. Hanani, one of Nehemiah's brothers reported this sad truth to his brother when Nehemiah asked how things were going in Jerusalem. Nehemiah prayed for four months before telling the king what was wrong in Jerusalem. Right before he brought up the subject, he prayed again. From Nehemiah's prayers we learn: *Prayer can include praising God and confession of sin, and praying back God's word before we ask God for something. We should be persistent in prayer and not give up.*