

## **The With-God Journey**

**Date:** May 14, 2023

**Series:** The With-God Journey

**Title:** What Comes First: God or Family?

**Text:** 1 Samuel 1-3

**Description:** God. Family. Work. In what order would you prioritize these key elements to life? We begin the book of 1 Samuel and meet one of the Bible's most faithful mothers, Hannah, and one of the Scripture's most disappointing fathers, Eli. How they prioritize faith and family, determine the course and direction of their lives. Discover how we might arrange our life, our work, and our family relationships according to God's design.

- 1) God. Family. Work. We looked today at how Hannah's priority was God, and Eli's was his family. What in your life tends to pull you away from having God as your top priority? Culture? Family? Work?
- 2) In 1 Samuel 1-3 we see two completely different families. Hannah and Elkanah give of their first son to the Lord. Eli allows his sons to do evil in the priestly office because he cared more for them than God. Why do you think it is so easy to prioritize family over God? How do we balance loving our family the way God asks us to, but keeping God as the top priority?
- 3) Read Hannah's prayer 1 Samuel 2:1-10. What does this tell you about Hannah? What does it tell you about her relationship with God? What about her relationship with her family?
- 4) Hannah desired for Samuel to grow up in the presence of the Lord. Read 1 Samuel 2:21. What do you think it means to grow in the presence of the Lord? What could that look like in your life?
- 5) In 1 Samuel 3:10, Samuel speaks to God saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening." As we navigate life, with everything around us pulling us away from keeping God as our top priority, what would it look like for the church to pray this prayer? What would it look like for you personally to pray this prayer? What affect could it have on your with-God life?