

A Soul Poured Out

**How do we pour our souls out to God?
¿Cómo derramamos nuestras almas a Dios?**

1. We pray about our _____.

Oramos por nuestros _____.

1 Samuel 1:10

1 Samuel 1:6-7

1 Peter 5:6-7 (1 Pedro 5:6-7)

2. We let go of our _____.

Dejamos ir nuestro _____.

1 Samuel 1:11

1 Samuel 2:2-3

Philippians 2:5-8 (Filipenses 2:5-8)

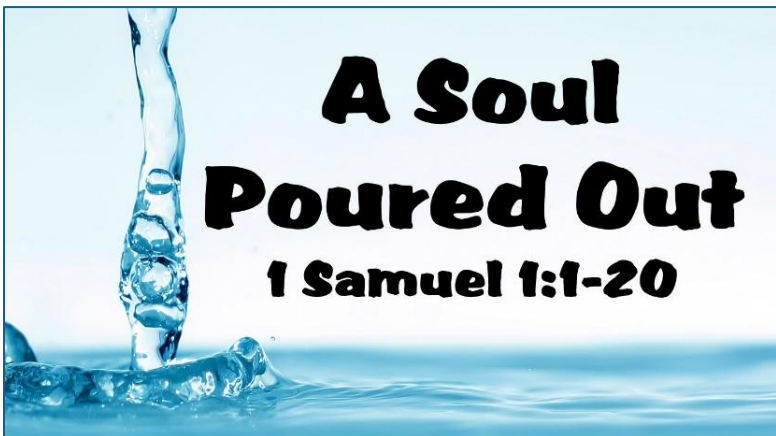
3. We persevere in _____.

Perseveramos en la _____.

1 Samuel 1:12-13

1 Samuel 1:15-16

Luke 18:1-8 (Lucas 18:1-8)



Discussion Questions and Notes

Week 1: July 19-26

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

1 Samuel describes how the nation of Israel went from the leadership of the judges to the establishment of the Davidic dynasty. The times were changing. God was about to set up some guardrails to help protect Israel from the moral and spiritual disasters that took place in the time of the judges.

Samuel was the last judge to rule over God's people, but he was also the first prophet sent by God to anoint a king. The book of judges described the spiritual condition of Israel as going into a downward spiral of idolatry and depravity. Being ruled by judges was not working out for Israel (Judges 21:25). In 1 Samuel, God works through three imperfect men to teach us about godly leadership. Ultimately, they would all point us to God's promise of a coming Messiah and our need for Jesus Christ to be our king.

However, before we learn about the leadership of Samuel, Saul, or David, we learn about a mistreated and misunderstood woman who was crying out for justice. It was through the persistent prayers of Hannah that God would start these great changes in the nation of Israel.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20

1. Where did Elkanah and his family live (1:1)

The writer identified Elkanah as an Ephraimite based on geography rather than genealogy. Bill Arnold writes,

The fact that Elkanah's long line is preserved in the sacred traditions indicates that Samuel is from aristocracy. In fact, the Chronicler gives the added detail that Samuel's line is from the Kohathite family of Levitical priests (1 Chron. 6:26–27, 33–34), who were originally responsible for caring for the ark of the covenant (Num. 3:31). (Arnold, 54)

2. How does verse 2 describe the difference between Peninnah and Hannah?

3. Where did the family go yearly to worship God? (1:3)
4. How did the husband treat Hannah on the occasion of feasts? Why? (1:4-5)
5. How did Peninnah treat Hannah year after year? (1:6-7)

James Smith observes,

Peninnah's spitefulness was triggered by Elkanah's public display of affection for Hannah. She used her fertility to lord it over Hannah (cf. Gen 16:4; 30:1-24). She kept provoking Hannah, perhaps by making an ostentatious exhibition of her children. One of the most detestable manifestations of malice is exultation over the misfortunes of others. Jealousy, grief, anger, and malice are some of the bitter fruits of polygamy. Peninnah had as her aim to irritate (lit., "to thunder against," [1 Sam. 2:10]) Hannah. (Smith, 41-42)

6. How did Elkanah try to cheer up Hannah? (1:8)
7. What was Hannah's emotional state in verse 10?
8. What vow did Hannah make to the Lord? (1:11-12)

Verse 3 is the first time that the Bible calls God "the LORD of host," (literally, Yahweh of armies). In verse 11, Hannah prays to the "LORD of hosts." In that same prayer, she refers to herself as "your maidservant" three times.

V. Philips Long speculates,

But if we may be permitted to speculate, long-term engagement with God in prayer may have led to a growing conviction that, should God give her a son, God would also have very special plans for that son. If there is any truth in this speculation, then Hannah's words may seem less indicative of bargaining than of submission to the divine will. (Long, 40-41)

9. What did Eli assume about Hannah? (1:13-14)

10. How did Hannah explain her behavior? (1:15-16)
11. What was Eli's response to Hannah's situation? (1:17)
12. How did Hannah's attitude change in verse 18? Why?
13. How did God answer Hannah's prayer? (1:19-20; 2:21)

Arnold notes,

Hannah was used as an instrument of God to initiate spiritual rebirth in Israel. Like Elizabeth and Mary after her, she was honored by God with miraculous conception in order to show God's mercy and grace and to continue his salvation story. But without a host of other, nameless Israelites who also prayed and lived their lives in quiet devotion, such reform would not be possible. (Arnold, 63)

14. Why did Hannah name her son Samuel? (1:20)
15. What should we do when people continue to provoke us?
16. How did Hannah demonstrate sincere faith in God?
17. Why is it important to pray about our problems?
18. What can we learn from the way Hannah prayed?
19. What problem or concern do you want people to pray about?
20. Who will you continue to pray for every day this week?

Sources cited:

Arnold, Bill. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 and 2 Samuel*.

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Long, V. Philips. *1 and 2 Samuel*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020.

Smith, James. *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel*.

Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000.