

A Thankful Spirit

**How do we show thankfulness to God?
¿Cómo mostramos gratitud a Dios?**

1. We rejoice in the _____.

Nos regocijamos en el _____.

1 Samuel 2:1

Luke 1:46-49 (Lucas 1:46-49)

Philippians 4:4-6 (Filipenses 4:4-6)

2. We give glory to _____.

Damos gloria a _____.

1 Samuel 2:2

1 Samuel 2:3-5

Romans 1:21 (Romanos 1:21)

Revelation 4:9-11 (Apocalipsis 4:9-11)

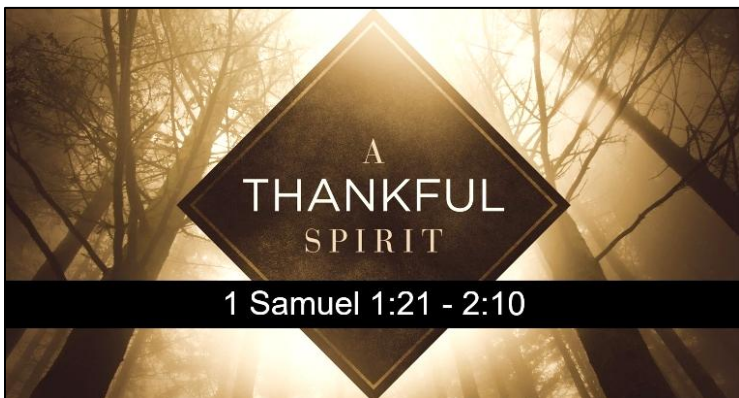
3. We follow Christ as our _____.

Seguimos a Cristo como nuestro _____.

1 Samuel 2:10

Matthew 16:24-27 (Mateo 16:24-27)

Revelation 17:12-14 (Apocalipsis 17:12-14)



Discussion Questions and Notes

Week 2: July 26 – August 2

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:21 – 2:11

In the first chapter of 1 Samuel, we are introduced to Elkanah and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. We are told that Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. We are told that Peninnah was Hannah's rival, who provoked her and made fun of her infertility. Year after year, Peninnah would brag about her many children as she harassed Hannah. But Hannah poured out her soul to the Lord pleading for God to give her a son.

In her prayer, Hannah made a promise to God that if He would give her a son, she would give her son back to God to serve in the tabernacle all his life. God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son.

In the next section of the book, we see the thankful spirit of Hannah keeping her promise and singing praises to God. Hannah concludes her song with a prediction of the Messiah that should produce within us a thankful spirit.

Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28

1. Why did Hannah stay home when the rest of the family went to offer the annual sacrifice? (1:21-22)

Carl Laney writes,

Hebrew children were normally weaned from their mothers at two to three years of age. The word translated "weaned" literally means "dealt fully with" and may include the idea of spiritual training as well. It may well be that Samuel learned of the importance of prayer from his godly mother at a very young age and thus became a great prophet of prayer. (Laney, 19)

2. What did Elkanah say to Hannah in verse 23?

3. What did Hannah take to the house of the Lord after the child was weaned? Why? (1:24-5)

4. How did Hannah explain the birth of Samuel? (1:26-27)

Joyce Baldwin notes,

Hannah's single-minded testimony cannot have failed to impress Eli as he recalled the occasion when she had stood near him, lost in prayer. Her point is emphasized by a wordplay on the root *šā'al*; four times it occurs, "the Lord has granted me my petition which I petitioned him. Therefore, I have petitioned him to the Lord ... he is petitioned to the Lord" [See also 1 Sam. 1:20]. The contrast between Hannah's selfless devotion and the self-indulgence of the priests at Shiloh (1 Sam. 2:12) highlights the cost to her of leaving Samuel there, though this is not mentioned directly. People like her were salt and light in the community. (Baldwin, 59)

5. How did Hannah fulfill the promise she made to God? (1:28)

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

6. Why did Hannah rejoice in the LORD? (2:1)

7. What did Hannah say about God in verse 2?

8. What warning did Hannah give to arrogant people? (2:3)

Baldwin comments,

...in the presence of this God, human arrogance is totally misplaced and even dangerous, in view of the Lord's way of 'balancing out' human experience. That is the meaning of weighed in the last line. The following verses illustrate the idea with examples of providential reversals that God has brought about. (Baldwin, 61)

9. What reversals did Hannah describe as acts of God? (2:4-8)

10. How is Luke 1:46-55 similar to Hannah's song?

11. How did Hannah give us a preview of the gospel in verse 6?

12. How will God respond to His saints in contrast to those who oppose Him? (2:9-10)

James Smith writes,

The wicked shall be defeated because it is not by strength that one prevails. Victory over circumstances and adversaries, whether on a personal level or a national level, only comes through the strength which God supplies. In the preceding verses Hannah has named several who might be perceived to be strong, yet who ultimately are brought down. So, the concluding verse of Hannah's hymn reverts to the thought presented in v. 1, viz., that it is in the Lord that the humble find their strength. (Smith, 57)

13. What did Hannah predict about the Messiah in verse 10?

Baldwin observes,

Interestingly, especially from the point of view of the structure of the book, the Song of David at the end of 2 Samuel picks up several of the themes of Hannah's song, including the victories granted by the Lord to "his king ... his anointed" (2 Sam. 22:51). It is in Hannah's song that the word 'anointed' (Heb. *māšîaḥ*, "messiah") is first used in connection with the king. (Baldwin, 63)

14. What did Samuel do at his new home in Shiloh? (2:11)

15. Why is God opposed to those who are proud?

16. How should we honor Christ as our king?

17. How will you maintain a thankful spirit this week?

18. How can you encourage others to rejoice in the Lord?

Sources cited:

Baldwin, Joyce. *1 and 2 Samuel*. Nottingham, England: IVP Academic, 2008.

Laney, Carl. *Everyman's Bible Commentary: First & Second Samuel*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1982.

Smith, James. *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000.