

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

Series: First Comes Love

Message: It's Complicated

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: God, we give you praise because you see and superintend all of our relationships: both simple and complicated. You see us in our struggles. You are with us in our pain. You are ever present and always willing to give us the wisdom, grace, and resources we need to find our way to love, peace, and joy. Be our sufficient supply today. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: How do you handle people who get on your nerves? Share your process, not the person.

INTRODUCTION: This is one of many stories in scripture about complicated relationships. In a culture where relationships were arranged by status and finance, and where children were viewed as a sign of God's favor and infertility was seen as a curse—Hannah's anguish was intense. However, the story illustrates the strength that can be gained by calling on God, waiting on God, and keeping your covenant with God. God is Jireh—God will provide, and that provision will benefit us and our families.

BIBLE STUDY: Read 1 Samuel 1:2-7 (Contemporary English Version)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. In the relationship, Hannah is described as "favored." Why do you think Elkanah favored her? In what ways can we be assured that we truly are "favored by God?" What are some experiences from your life that help you know and understand that God favors you?
3. Hannah's relationship with Elkanah was "complicated." She was swirling in a tornado of "baby mama drama." Why were Hannah & Peninnah were such bitter rivals? Why do you suppose Hannah's grief was especially intense when they went to worship?
4. How can you relate to the pain of this story? What pain did Hannah have? What pain did Peninnah have? What pain did Elkanah have? When we have a void in life and focus on what we don't have, we will always experience depression and drama. Why is it easier to focus on the "voids in life" rather than the blessings? How does focusing on my "void" lead to depression and drama?

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

5. Hannah loosed her grip on her dreams and opened her heart. Look at 1 Samuel 1:9-11. What was Hannah's dream (desire)? What was the promise she made to God? Why do you think she made this type of promise to God?
6. At the conclusion of the story, Hannah's spiritual transformation led to her physical transformation. Why is spiritual transformation so important? Has your spiritual growth ever impacted your life physically? How? When?
7. Hannah trusted God with all that God provided, and God gave her more. How did Hannah demonstrate her trust in God? What is the most difficult experience you've endured with which you've had to trust God?

CHALLENGE: We've been navigating our way through a global pandemic for three years with many restrictions. Now that the pandemic appears to be subsiding—take time to plan as a group to fellowship this summer. What will you do? When will you do it? How will you include everybody?

SERVE: Pray over 1 Samuel 1 this week. **Praise** God for the ability to simplify and work through complicated relationships by God's grace. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give Him praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/myspbc) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/myspbc). Subscribe to our 7:14 prayers at 855.518.2394. Download our Mobile App from your App Store (myspbc).

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000



NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): *Under Prayerful Consideration*
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)