

Strength & Dignity (Week 2)

May 17th, 2026

SERMON NOTES:

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. **Head** – What do you believe about God in times of delay or difficulty?

- When you look at Hannah’s years of barrenness, what does her story teach you about God’s character (*His timing, His goodness, His sovereignty*)?
- Are there any wrong beliefs you’ve picked up (e.g., *“If I’m suffering, God must be punishing me”*) that need to be corrected by this passage?

2. **Heart** – How is God using your pain to refine your motives?

- Hannah’s prayer shifted from *“give me a son”* to *“give me a son and I’ll give him back to You.”* Where is God currently using a hard situation in your life to expose selfish motives, fear, or control?
- What might it look like to honestly say, *“Lord, let this be about You, not about me,”* in that area?

3. **Hands (Serving in the Church)** – How can you serve with open hands like Hannah?

- Hannah kept her vow and released Samuel to God’s service, even though it cost her personally. In what ways could you offer your gifts, time, or comfort to serve in the church, not for recognition or control, but truly *“for the Lord”*?
- Is there a ministry, person, or need in our church where God might be asking you to serve sacrificially?

4. **Feet (Work/Home/Hobbies)** – Responding with strength and dignity where you live and work.

- Hannah responded to false accusation (*Eli thinking she was drunk*) with both humility and clarity. Think of a current situation at work, home, or in your hobbies where you feel misunderstood, overlooked, or judged. How could you respond in a way that shows both strength and dignity, by being clear and truthful, but humble, so that people *“see your God roar,”* not just you?

5. **Community** – Living this out in a confused culture.

- The sermon mentioned living faithfully in a culture that *“does what is right in its own eyes”* (like in **Judges**) and doesn’t celebrate what God celebrates.
- What would it look like for our group to be a *“Hannah presence”* in our community—prayerful, humble, and steadfast rather than reactive, judgmental, or withdrawn (e.g., *during Pride month, political tensions, neighborhood issues*)?
- What is one practical step you can take this week in your community (*a conversation, an act of kindness, an invitation, prayer walk, etc.*) that reflects trust in God’s character instead of fear of the culture?