

THINK AHEAD— TRUSTING GOD WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

- **What you worry about the most often reveals where you trust God the least.**

Trusting God When You Don't Understand

Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not. 1 Samuel 1:2 NLT

So Peninnah would taunt Hannah and make fun of her because the LORD had kept her from having children. ⁷Year after year it was the same—Peninnah would taunt Hannah as they went to the Tabernacle. Each time, Hannah would be reduced to tears and would not even eat. 1 Samuel 1:6-7 NLT

- **We learn to trust God in the trials.**

“Why are you crying, Hannah?” Elkanah would ask. “Why aren't you eating? Why be downhearted just because you have no children? You have me—isn't that better than having ten sons?” 1 Samuel 1:8 NLT

Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. ¹⁰Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. 1 Samuel 1:9-10 NLT

... *“O LORD of Heaven’s Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. ... 1 Samuel 1:11 NLT*

“Oh, thank you, sir!” she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad. 1 Samuel 1:18 NLT

The entire family got up early the next morning and went to worship the LORD once more. ... 1 Samuel 1:19 NLT

... Then they returned home to Ramah. When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the LORD remembered her plea, ²⁰and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I asked the LORD for him.” 1 Samuel 1:19-20 NLT

Samuel means “heard by God.”

- **Because God has been faithful in the past, we can trust Him with the future.**

TALK IT OVER

Read **Proverbs 3:5-6**. What does it look like to submit and trust in God, even when you don’t understand? In what ways will God make your paths straight?

Share about a time when you were faced with a trial and had to choose between worry and trust. How did you respond, and what did you learn through that experience?

Talk about an area in your life where you are currently struggling to trust God. How would your life look different if you gave that worry to God?