

# Love Stories— When Love Doesn't Fix the Pain

## 4 Lessons From Their Love Story

### **1. Even families that love God still experience pain, problems, and pressure.**

*Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup>But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. 1 Samuel 1:4-5 NIV*

*So Peninnah would taunt Hannah and make fun of her because the LORD had kept her from having children. <sup>7</sup>Year 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*

*Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?” 1 Samuel 1:8 NIV*

### **2. Sometimes your spouse doesn't need a solution—they just need your presence.**

*In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. <sup>11</sup>And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life ...” 1 Samuel 1:10-11 NIV*

### **3. Godly couples don't avoid the pain; they invite God into it.**

## How Do You Pray Together?

- 1. Keep it simple.**
- 2. Keep it short.**
- 3. If you miss one day, don't miss two.**

*“Oh no, sir!” she replied. “I haven’t been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD. <sup>16</sup>Don’t think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow.” 1 Samuel 1:15-16 NLT*

**God often honors the faith of one to bless the lives of two.**

*“In that case,” Eli said, “go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him.” <sup>18</sup>“Oh, thank you, sir!” she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad. 1 Samuel 1:17-18 NLT*

- 4. Prayer may or may not change your circumstances, but prayer always changes you.**

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

*So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. ... 1 Samuel 1:20 NIV*

## TALK IT OVER

Read **1 Samuel 1:10-11**. What are some practical ways you can continue seeking God, even when you don't feel like it?

Talk about a time when you invited God into your pain. How did this impact the way you viewed your circumstance?

If you're currently going through a difficult situation, share openly about it with your lifegroup. Talk about how you'll intentionally pray together for one another throughout the week.