

## **Hannah Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What would you most like to do for someone else if you had the time and money?
2. What is one random skill you would love to master?

**Read the following passage:** 1 Samuel 1:1-28.

Hannah was in a very difficult position. She had no children and a rival (in her own home!) who relentlessly mocked her. This brutal reality went on “year after year.” But Hannah took her longings to the Lord, and the Lord heard her prayers. Hannah gave birth to a boy and named him Samuel. After her son, Samuel, was weaned, Hannah fulfilled her vow and told Eli, the priest, “I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.”

Although our circumstances are different, we also have to navigate taunting voices. We need to bring our desires to God. And we need to dedicate our children to the Lord.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Are there any critical voices, internal or external, that you regularly have to navigate? What are some of the critical voices Jesus heard during his public ministry? What do we do when there is some truth in the critical voices we hear?
2. First Samuel 1:6 states that “the LORD had closed Hannah’s womb.” How can our recognition of the sovereignty of God help us face challenging circumstances? Are you convinced that God is working for your good even in the midst of your challenges? Explain.
3. Read James 4:1-3. Is it wrong to have strong desires? How do we know when a desire should be fueled, when it should be refined, and when it should be rejected?
4. How do we live in peace even when our desires are currently unfulfilled? Do you have a deep desire for God?
5. What does it practically look like to dedicate our children to the Lord? What should we do with the desires we have for our children?
6. Why is it important for our children to experience spiritual family? What can we do to strengthen our own spiritual community?

**Pray**