

- For every believer, prayer is not an **option**.

12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. Romans 12:12

17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18

- Powerful prayers are conversations with God that display a great **faith** in God.

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:22-24

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

3 Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD at the Tabernacle… 1 Samuel 1:3 (NLT)
4 When Elkanah sacrificed, he passed helpings from the sacrificial meal around to his wife Peninnah and all her children, 5 but he always gave an especially generous helping to Hannah because he loved her so much, and because GOD had not given her children. 6 But her rival wife taunted her cruelly, rubbing it in and never letting her forget that GOD had not given her children. 7 This went on year after year. Every time she went to the sanctuary of GOD she could expect to be taunted. Hannah was reduced to tears and had no appetite. 1 Samuel 1:4-7 (MSG)

Hannah would say:

- In your pain, **pray.**

17 Is anyone crying for help? GOD is listening, ready to rescue you. 18 If your heart is broken, you'll find GOD right there; if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath. Psalm 34:17-18 (MSG)

Lessons Hannah's story teaches us:

- We can't always **depend** on **comfort** from people we love.

3 …God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3 (NLT)
8 "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)

- People can't fill the **void**.

1 I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. 3 He has given me a new song to sing…. Psalm 40:1-3 (NLT)

- Don't take your **frustrations** out on people, even if they deserve it.

9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. 1 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

- **Believe** that God **can.**

12 As she was praying to the LORD, Eli watched her. 13 Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking. 14 "Must you come here drunk?" he demanded. "Throw away your wine!" 15 "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. 16 Don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow...1 Samuel 1:12-18 (NLT)

17 "In that case," Eli said, "go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him." 18 "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

Hannah would say:

- **Worship** God in the **pain.**

3 Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD at the Tabernacle… 1 Samuel 1:3 (NLT)

- **Pray** until God **answers.**

1 Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. Luke 18:1 (MSG)

- **Release** it to **God.**

11 And she made this vow: "O LORD …if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime…" 1 Samuel 1:11 (NLT)

- Act on **faith** while you're praying.

19 The entire family was up early the next morning and went to the Tabernacle to worship the Lord once more. Then they returned home to Ramah, and when Elkanah slept with Hannah, the Lord remembered her petition; 20 in the process of time, a baby boy was born to her. She named him Samuel (meaning "asked of God") because, as she said, "I asked the Lord for him." 1 Samuel 1:19-20 (TLB)

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What from Hannah's story inspires you?
- Why do you think prayer is often the first thing we neglect when life gets difficult?
- What is the difference between praying with faith and simply hoping things will work out?
- When you experience deep pain, is your first response to pray or to try to fix things yourself? Why?
- What does Hannah's relationship with Elkanah teach us about the limitations of even the people who love us most?
- Why do we sometimes expect people, relationships, or circumstances to satisfy needs that only God can fulfill?
- How can unresolved frustration cause us to hurt the people around us? What does it look like to respond with grace instead?
- What keeps us from being completely honest with God about our deepest struggles?
- What does worship look like when God hasn't answered your prayer the way you hoped?
- What is something you find difficult to release into God's hands, even after you've prayed about it?
- How can our actions demonstrate that we trust God before we ever see the answer?

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Sunday, November 8th