



Lesson #15

Hannah: A Woman of Mercy, Grace, & Prayer

Read I Samuel 1:1-8

What is the family situation?

Does this family fear the Lord?

What kind of love exists between Hannah and Elkanah?

Though Hannah knows the sweetness of a husband's love, she desires a child more than anything. She is part of a family that serves the Lord, making yearly pilgrimages to offer sacrifices of worship to the God they loved. Hannah is committed to the Lord, but still she is so sad.

Read I Samuel 1:9-20

Where did Hannah go and what did she do?

How did Hannah express her feelings to God?

Look at Hannah's prayer in verse 11. How does she acknowledge God? How does she refer to herself? How does she view her relationship with God?

What does she ask for? What will she do with her son?

What five (or more) things does Hannah teach us about prayer?

Why did Eli think she was drunk?

All of us have hurt so deeply that it shows up on our face. As Hannah pours her heart out to the Lord, she is so emotional that Eli thinks that she is drunk. It makes me so happy that Hannah got so emotional with God. Now I can pour my heart out to Him too. I can say anything, knowing that He hears and understands the cries of my heart. He will not turn me away. He will not turn you away.

Did Hannah get defensive when Eli falsely accused her? (v. 15, 16, 18)

How should we react when falsely accused?

Are there any examples in your life when you were falsely accused? What happened?

How does Eli respond?

Compare v. 8 with v. 18. Why is there such a difference?

What did Hannah join her family in doing the next morning?

How did God answer her prayer?

Why did she name her child “Samuel”?

Read I Samuel 1:21--2:2

Why didn't Hannah join her family in the annual sacrifice?

When did she give Samuel to the Lord?

Did she give Samuel grudgingly?

Read I Samuel 2:18-21 and 2:26

Was Hannah a good mom?

How did God reward Hannah's obedience?

Do you think v. 26 had anything to do with Hannah's prayers for him?

Summary

How can we conclude that Hannah counted on answered prayer?

What struck you most about her dedication to God?

Think it through & Apply it to your Life!

Do you count on answered prayer?

List some answers to prayer where you have poured your heart out to God?

How can you be more like Hannah?

List steps to take to grow in your prayer life? (Copy the list and ask a friend to pray for you to grow!)

Personal & Group Assignments

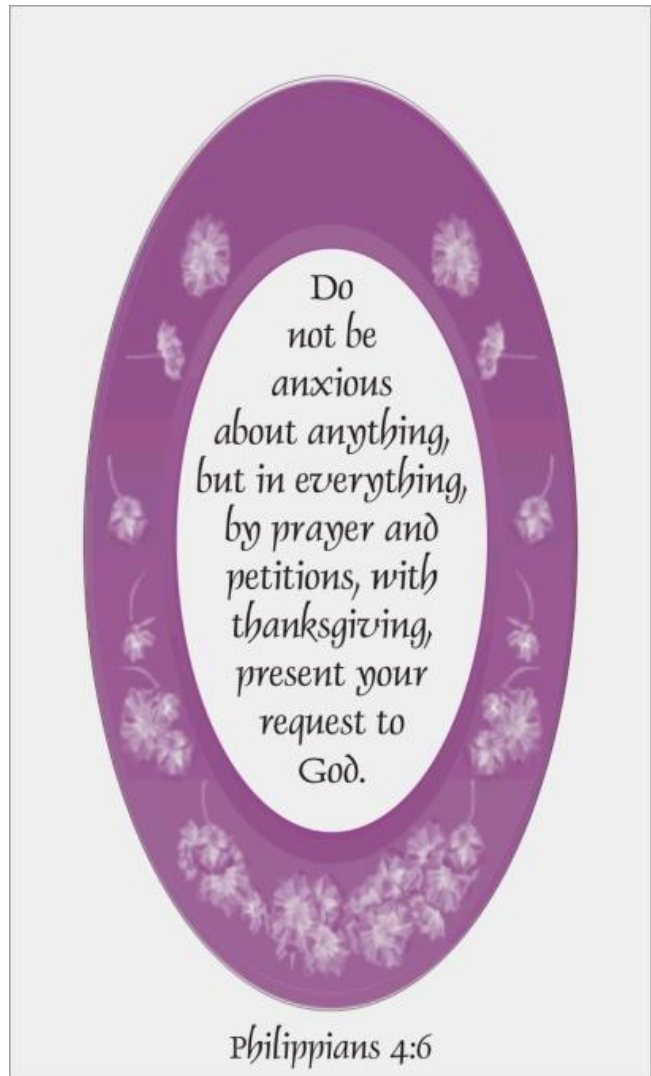
Please Memorize



**Charm is deceptive, and beauty fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord
is to be praised.**

Proverbs 31:30





Please memorize:

Group Assignment: Have a “Praise and Prayer” meeting. Worship with singing and dancing together. Then pour your hearts out to God. Thank Him at the end for the way that He will answer your prayers!

Hannah: Full of Grace, Mercy & Prayer



Hannah and Elkanah were just like any other family in Ancient Israel. They were headed off on vacation to offer yearly sacrifices to the Lord. Well, they really weren't such a typical family. Elkanah had an additional wife named Peninnah. We learn from I Samuel that he loved Hannah more but Peninnah was the one who had the children, not Hannah. This was a time when a woman's value was in how many children she could produce. Peninnah made fun of Hannah because she was barren.

Hannah's Circumstances Led Her to God!

*Even if her own husband didn't understand,
the Everlasting Father would listen and respond!*

Hannah's heart was filled with pain and grief. She longed for children. She was tormented by Elkanah's other wife (can you imagine sharing a husband with another woman?!), Peninnah who had been blessed with what she so desired: children! Peninnah probably longed for her husband's love and affection, freely lavished on Hannah. Peninnah was probably jealous of the double-portion Elkanah gave Hannah. Though he loved her and wanted Hannah to be happy, Elkanah did not understand her anguish and thought that his love should be enough. NO children. And a husband who did not understand her heart of pain.

Do you find yourself in a situation like Hannah, alone in your sorrow, dealing with others' jealousy of your situation when there is so much pain in your heart that you find it hard to imagine anyone being jealous of you?! Hannah did not try to get things right with Peninnah or make Elkanah understand. Instead, she looked to the Lord.

Hannah's Circumstances Led Her to God!

Hannah cried and prayed, cried and prayed, and cried and prayed some more. She poured out ALL the bitterness to Him. She did not try to put on a show for Him or sound “spiritual”. She just came to God as the One who made her and could understand everything in her heart. Like Jacob, she wrestled with the Most High until there was peace in her heart. She is so overcome with emotion that she is silently sobbing with no sound coming out of her mouth while her lips moved rapidly.

Eli, the high priest sees her silent weeping and mistakes it for drunkenness. Hannah explains to him that she is not drunk, only racked with pain inside her soul. He gives her his blessing.

*What a glorious privilege to be a daughter of a Loving King!
Pour every concern, heartache, dream and deep longing to the Lord.*

Throughout this story, we see Hannah’s humility toward God and others. She does not get defensive or “touchy” when Eli, the high priest, misunderstands her prayer time and thinks that she is drunk. Instead, she gently explains her situation and wins his favor. In her honest confession to God about her pain and sorrow, she is humble before Him, seeing Him as the Mighty King and herself as His servant. What an example for us to follow. How often do others misunderstand us and we get angry? How often do we stop to realize how we are coming across and seek gently to explain what we are doing? The Bible tells us to think of others more highly than ourselves (Philippians 2:3) and to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God (I Peter 5:6) so that in His time He will lift us up again. Let’s be women who walk humbly before God and one another.

Hannah’s Circumstances Led Her to God!

Another example Hannah set for us is to make specific requests to God: “I want a son!” In addition, she wanted God’s answer to her prayer to bring glory to the Holy King of the Universe. She pledged to give her son to the work of the Lord for all of His days. Her heart was for the Lord’s glory!

We can be totally honest with God about our desires. We should tell Him exactly what we want Him to do for us. However, our attitude needs to be one that pursues the glory of God! Hannah wanted her answer to prayer to make a difference in the earth for the Lord Almighty.

As soon as she was able to wean her son, she fulfilled her vow to the Lord and took her little one to the high priest. Samuel was raised by Eli and became a man filled with the spirit and wisdom as he ruled Israel. Each year she visited him and made him a little coat. I am confident that each day she prayed for him and that his spotless record with the Lord was due to her powerful prayers. After God answered her prayer so wonderfully, there was more confidence than ever to bring her requests before her Heavenly Father.

She fulfilled her vow to the Lord!

God reward her faithfulness to keep her word and fulfill her vow by giving Samuel to God to serve Him in the temple. He blessed her with other children. You cannot out-give God! “Give and it will be given to you, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap” (Luke 6:38)

*What a glorious privilege to be a daughter of a Loving King!
Pour every concern, heartache, dream and deep longing to the Lord.*

Hannah understood the character of God. She knew that He did love her and care deeply about her feelings. Even if her own husband didn't understand, the Everlasting Father would listen and respond! After she had poured out her heart and let the pain go, she was free to worship God again with a glad heart. She trusted Him and waited for His answer to prayer. She thanked him before she had even conceived little Samuel.

She fulfilled her vow to the Lord!

Hannah understood the character of God. She knew that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He would do something good for her. She chose to be faithful to God in response to His faithfulness. She would be like Him!

Hannah understood the character of God. She knew that our Righteous Judge exalts those who are humble before their King and His people. God brings glory to Himself and His name by lifting up the downtrodden.

What a glorious privilege to be a daughter of a Loving King! Pour every

concern, heartache, dream and deep longing to the Lord. Continue to pray until God changes your heart or answers! In the meantime, TRUST Him and know that He loves you. He will do good things in your life because you are a delight to Him!

Do you find yourself in a situation like Hannah, alone in your sorrow, dealing with others' jealousy of your situation when there is so much pain in your heart that you find it hard to imagine anyone being jealous of you?!

Let your circumstances lead you to God!

