

: choose 1 *Connect* question and discuss for 5-7 minutes.

Share with your group the top 3 things you want most in the world right now.

What's the most interesting meal you've ever had?

1. What do you _____?
Who is Hannah? What is happening?
What does Hannah promise?
2. What _____ arise for you?
What must it have felt like for Hannah to leave her young son there?

Hannah is the mother of the prophet Samuel, who would play a pivotal role in the monarchies (king Saul and David) that would rule ancient Israel. Hannah birthed the prophet who would anoint king David, the one "after God's own heart."¹ It was through Hannah's anguished prayers and deep longing for a son that Samuel's life came to be.

As a woman and wife in ancient Israel, to not bear children and particularly sons for your husband was a deep social and familial shame. You weren't giving your husband heirs to continue the family line. Hannah and her husband's other wife, Peninah both knew it, too. With this deep longing in her heart, Hannah goes before God in such earnest and intense prayer that Eli the prophet looking on thinks her drunk. Hannah teaches us about prayer, about laying it all out before the LORD, not suppressing, repressing, or withholding emotion from God or from ourselves—especially painful emotions. She is a model for us, a mother in the faith of trusting God with our heart's deepest desires.

It's through the prayers of his mother Hannah that Samuel becomes the great servant of the LORD that he was. Because she prayed for him and kept her word to give him back to the LORD, he became who he was called to be.

"In this story, God_____."

Jesus would do like Hannah did in letting out his anguish in prayer before the LORD in the Scriptures.² Hannah teaches us in her example how to pray with and from our souls to God, and Jesus teaches us words³ to pray to our

¹ 1 Samuel 13:14

² Matthew 26:36-46

³ Matthew 6:9-13



