

Life Lessons from Samuel's Mom, Hannah

1. Hannah was a mom who sought God during a time when everybody was looking out for themselves.

"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."

Judges 21:25 (NLT)

Life Application: It is good to celebrate godly moms!

"Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!' Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised." Proverbs 31:28-30 (NLT)

2. Hannah knew all about heartache and mistreatment.

"(Elkanah) had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh... 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. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 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 1:2-8 (NIV)

Life Application: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all..." Psalm 34:18-19 (NIV)

Life Application: "(Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT)

3. Hannah took her problems to the Lord.

"Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. 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, and no razor will ever be used on his head.' As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, 'How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.' 'Not so, my lord,' Hannah replied, 'I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.' Eli answered, 'Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.' She said, 'May your servant find favor in your eyes.' Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast." 1 Samuel 1:9-18 (NIV) (See also Numbers 6:1-8)

Note: "...the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." Romans 8:26b-27 (NLT)

Life Application: If we surrender our worries and stress to the Lord, He will give us peace.

"Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you." Psalm 55:22 (NLT)

"Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7 (TPT)

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (NLT)

4. Hannah gave Samuel back to God and was blessed for her faithfulness.

"The entire family got up early the next morning and went to worship the Lord once more. Then they returned home to Ramah. When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the Lord remembered her plea, and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I asked the Lord for him.' ...When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They brought along a three-year-old bull for the sacrifice and a basket of flour and some wine. After sacrificing the bull, they brought the boy to Eli. 'Sir, do you remember me?' Hannah asked. 'I am the very woman who stood here several years ago praying to the Lord. I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life.' And they worshiped the Lord there... And the Lord blessed Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:19-20, 24-28; 2:19-21 (NLT)

Life Application: "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3 (NLT)

Life Application: The most important thing we can do is train our children to love the Lord because we must all let go of them eventually.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; Even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

Life Application: God rewards faithfulness and honors those who trust in Him.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Describe your Mom. What do you admire most about her?
2. Read 1 Samuel 1 and Judges 21:25. How might this story relate to moms in our culture today?
3. Describe a time in your life when you felt like God was asking you to surrender something important.
4. Read Romans 8:26-27. Have you ever felt so overwhelmed with anger/disappointment/fear that you couldn't even pray because you didn't know what to say? If so, what did you do? What should we do?
5. Discuss the following verses. How can we find peace in a stressful, broken world?
 - Psalm 34:18, 55:22
 - Hebrews 4:15-16
 - 1 Peter 5:7
 - Isaiah 26:3
 - John 14:27
6. All parents must let go of their children eventually. How do we equip them to leave home? (See Proverbs 22:6)
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Abraham Lincoln

"the LORD says... 'As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...'" Isaiah 66:12-13

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3