

My Prayer for Today

O God, how much we too desire to bring our children up in Your Word so that they will be a blessing to the world. Help us, day by day, to be a blessing and a gentle guide to our children.

Sharing

Every woman is able to reach out to children and touch their lives for good. We may not all have children to whom we have given birth, but every child in our sphere of influence is someone we can bless with our time and encouragement. Our love and tenderness will give them hope and a desire to live better lives.

Women in the Bible:
Hannah
and me

Fulfillment and joy



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LESSON

Hannah

A Name Meaning "Graciousness"

Women in the Bible: Hannah and Me

Key Scripture: 1 Samuel 1 and 2

Introduction

We find many examples of answers to prayer in the Bible. The story of Hannah is proof of the power of prayer. When God met Hannah in the temple in Shiloh, He not only answered her prayer for a child, He answered her prayer for comfort in her misery.

Hannah was the mother of Samuel, the first great prophet after Moses. Hannah had a worthy son, but she was also a worthy mother. She represents the ideal of godly motherhood—humble, consecrated, and loyal.

Waiting for things is not a curse. In fact, God can use it to produce a blessing if we remain faithful to Him. Keep trusting God. That is one lesson from Hannah's story. God is willing to meet us as He met Hannah.

Discover

- * Her Deep Heartfelt Desire
- * Her Faith
- * Her Skill as a Mother

Going Deeper

1. What was the situation in the family of Elkanah? (1 Samuel 1:1-8)

2. What did Elkanah do each year?

3. What step did Hannah take in her sorrow? (Verses 9-11)

4. Who came to her while she continued to pray? (Verse 12)

5. What did Eli think was the matter with Hannah? (Verses 13-14)

6. Hannah poured out her heartfelt pain in what words? (Verses 15-16)

7. Once Eli understood why she was weeping, what words of encouragement did he give her? (Verse 17)

8. Hannah was blessed with what joyful experience? (Verses 19-20)

9. What were the changes in her life during the next few years? (Verses 19-24)

10. To us today, it seems as though Hannah made a tremendous sacrifice. What did she do? (Verses 24-28)

11. What did Hannah do each year for Samuel? (1 Samuel 2:19)

12. What were Eli's sons like? (Verses 12-17, 22-25)

13. How was Hannah's early training of her son manifested later in his life? (Verses 3:9-10; 19-21)

Words for Today

14. What are some of the lessons we can learn from Hannah in relating to the children entrusted to our care?

15. Praying for our children today is just as essential as it was in Hannah's time. Covenant to pray daily for your children - and all children - who need a special blessing.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is prayer a natural impulse, or is prayer an art, something we must learn to do?

2. Hannah dedicated her child to God. Do parents have the right to choose a profession for their sons and their daughters? Explain.

Words of Wisdom

As a mother, Hannah had a sacred responsibility entrusted to her. She was the one who molded Samuel's character and taught him to have a strong faith. From his earliest childhood she sought to lead his thoughts to the Creator. When separated from her child, she continued to lift him in prayer every day, and even many times a day, as she went about her work. Hannah's reward was to live to see her son become a blessing to the world. 1 Samuel 2:26 tells us Samuel grew in favor both with God and with men. As women who are entrusted with the spiritual growth and character development of our youth, we have a worthy example to follow.

Notes: