

Beginning this week, start committing to memory the Hannah's Gift Pledge. Invite the help of the Holy Spirit into your life so that you can be molded into the woman and mother God intended you to be.

As the group recites the pledge together, you are agreeing with one another and God that your hope rests in His strength and grace!

Hannah's Gift Pledge

As a **Hannah's Gift** mom, I acknowledge that my children are a gift from God. I take hold of the call and responsibility as a mother and I seek God's guidance on how to best parent my child. I am growing into a wise and strong woman of faith, and my greatest desire is to leave behind a spiritual legacy carried on by my children to their children. May my family prove to be a tower of strength built on the firm foundation I am laying in the power of Christ.

Signature

Date

🌀 Hannah's Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 2

Memory Verse

Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

(1 Peter 1:18-19)

Hannah's World: Hannah lived during the time period of the judges when with each generation, the people increasingly rebelled against God's plan and purpose for them. God recognized Hannah and initiated the embers of renewal.

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.—Judges 21:25

- ❖ What does this statement mean – *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes*?
- ❖ How does this statement reflect on our culture?

The Period of the Judges: Often referred to as "The Dark Ages of Israelite History." With each passing generation, the children took the sins of their forefathers farther. The people continued to move farther and farther away from God's plan and purpose for them.

Because of their rebellion, God allowed Israel to be defeated by enemy nations. Sometimes we get angry at God because of our circumstances. However, our circumstances are the direct result of our own actions.

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits

and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.—Hebrews 12:7-11

- ❖ If God miraculously removed all of our hardships, would we ever be motivated to make a change?

The political and spiritual decay had a great impact on the family. God had a clear plan for the family and the home—loving parents who care for and protect their children and the father was to shoulder the responsibility for the well-being of his home. There were many laws that expressed specific protection and consideration over women.

The book of Judges, however, illustrated a total perversion of the order of the home. Women and children were the victims of great injustice and there was no covering of protection for the most vulnerable in their society. Man's attitude toward women was that of property to be used and discarded at will. How far the people had wandered from the security and peace of the ideal home setting!

Children were victims of men's foolish and selfish decisions. Immoral men used and disregarded women. Against such depravity, however, the story of Hannah emerges. The contrast of the final pages of Judges and the beginning narrative of Samuel emphasizes the dramatic difference of God's attitude toward women and children. God values them, hears them, and gives them places of honor in His salvation history.

God will speak to and through one special child who will then move a nation. In the darkest of times, God can always find a remnant through which to do a mighty work. We are never without hope!

- ❖ What are common sins against women and children carried out in our time? Remember they are not always criminal acts.
- ❖ How do we open someone's eyes to a better way of life?

Assignment

1. Take inventory of your family of origin. Without being intentional to bring about change, we end up a product of our environment. Describe your world. Take an honest evaluation.
2. Often we have no idea of the flaws in our environment because it is all we know of reality. What are some reasons to resist these realizations? For example, we are more likely to stay in the familiar rather than risk the uncertainty of the unknown.
3. Many of us come from families that exhibit cycles of sin. We tend to accept the heritage handed down to us as our own lot in life. But could it be that we are called to be a Hannah?
4. Could it be that cycles of sin and destructive behavior can stop with us, and our children's children would know nothing of the empty way of life of their forefathers?