

- Hannah—displays righteousness, humility, and sincerity in contrast to Elkanah and Eli. In the end, Eli is affected by the devoted Hannah and he prays that God would grant her what she asked for.

- ❖ What will I do with what I've learned?
- ❖ How do I compare with Hannah?
- ❖ Do I need to forgive so that healing can come?

Assignment

1. Are there any Peninnahs in your life? Does he or she know how to go straight to those most humiliating places?

2. Behind every Peninnah is the enemy of your soul whose goal is to steal, kill and destroy. Identify those repeating scenarios that you know always bring you to tears. Ask God to show you how to let His grace intervene so that you may enjoy a different outcome.

3. How about your Elkanahs? Do you feel that the people closest to you don't understand you?

Don't make them your savior. No person or thing was ever meant to satisfy your soul. We must let people off the hook. We can't set them up as our everything because they will surely let us down. Only with proper expectations can human relationships flourish.

4. The Elis in your life represent those you have looked to for spiritual guidance, but instead delivered disappointment. Bring to the Lord any hurtful experiences endured as a result of marred spiritual leaders. Let God heal you and bring you to the point of forgiveness.

5. Take a moment to identify with Hannah. How can you relate to Her?

6. Consider the humility and trust Hannah exemplified. Compare it with the strategies or ways we tend to carry out in order to get our way with God.

7. Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28 . Pay careful attention to Hannah’s initiative as she takes ownership of her walk with the Lord.

🌀 Hannah’s Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 3

Memory Verse

*For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
(Hebrews 2:11)*

Hannah the Woman: Often misunderstood and disregarded, Hannah rose above her circumstances and distinguished herself as a godly and wise woman.

Read through 1 Samuel 1:1-20.

What did we learn about each of the characters?

- Elkanah
- Hannah
- Peninnah
- Eli
- Eli’s sons—Hophni and Phinehas

❖ How does this story apply to our lives today?

Character summaries:

- Elkanah—loved Hannah but appears to be unaware of his wife’s heartbreak. He seems to know that God has shut Hannah’s womb, but doesn’t bother praying that it would be opened.
- Peninnah—the irritating second wife. She represents those in our world that seem to delight in our weaknesses and have a way of making us feel completely worthless.
- Eli—is the priest who represents God to the people, and the people to God. However he doesn’t appear to be very in touch with God or the people.