

best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.—1 Samuel 1:21-23

Hannah sought the Lord. She takes initiative to seek God’s guidance and act independently from her husband to fulfill her own vow. She sought God’s direction for her own life and the life of her son, and she moves in obedience.

❖ What do you make of Elkanah’s response to Hannah’s vow?

*And when she weaned him she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, “Oh my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.
—1 Samuel 1:24-28*

Hannah worships. Hannah fulfills her vow and she initiates the worship.

❖ Who is the “he” that worshiped? There are a couple of possibilities.

Assignment

Perhaps you know what it feels like to be oppressed, to be looked down on. Though we may not like being labeled as inferior, sometimes we find safety in the lack of expectations. If we are honest, we must admit that it is hard work to swim upstream. If no one really expects much from us, we do not have to risk the potential for failure.

1. Has there been a time when you hid behind the label someone placed on you?

2. Have you let the negative attitudes of others hold you down in any way?

3. Have you believed the lies others have said about you to the point that you no longer try to prove any of them wrong?

In spite of the ridicule Hannah got from Peninnah and probably others, she stood up against it.

4. Do you have Peninnahs who have shamed you and deemed you unworthy of your children?

5. If so, how do you respond?

6. In what ways have you avoided responsibility as a mother?

🌀 Hannah's Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 4

Memory Verse

*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love
and self-control.
(2Timothy1:7)*

Follow Hannah's lead:

- Acknowledge that your children are a gift from God.
- Take hold of your call and responsibility as a mother and seek God's guidance on the best way to parent your child.

7. What are some opportunities that are available to you that will help you develop into a strong and wise woman of faith?

8. What are some ways that you can be a positive influence in your child's life even now?

Hannah's Initiative: In a world where women had few rights, Hannah stood boldly and proclaimed all that God had placed on her heart. She demonstrated how to be a godly woman of strength, determination and worth in every circumstance.

Read through 1 Samuel 1:21-28.

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name, Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD." - 1 Samuel 1:20

Hannah asked the Lord. Not Elkanah. Not Eli or his sons.

❖ What are your thoughts about Hannah so far?

Hannah named Samuel. By naming her son, Samuel (He who is from God), she didn't want to ever forget how God heard and responded to her cry of despair. She knew full well it was God who provided and gave Him the glory for the birth of Samuel.

❖ When do you think she decided that she would leave Samuel to be raised by Eli?

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems