

into a mother's heart a compassion that drives her to sacrifice for her children.

Addictions and self-destructive behaviors inhibit healthy mother-child bonding. Perhaps your mother modeled selfish-parenting instead of compassion-driven parenting. Allow God to search your heart. Confess what needs to be confessed so that healing can come. Repent of any selfishness and destructive ways that caused harm to your child. Turn to hope and life in Christ and agree to begin again as a godly parent.

There is unexplainable power in sacrificial love. As we let Christ transform us, we learn to love our children wholeheartedly and sacrificially. We love them with a love that heals and builds up.

- ❖ We all have things we wish we could have done differently. In silent prayer, lay these things down at the feet of Jesus.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. —Romans 8:1

- ❖ How might Romans 8:1 encourage you as you take steps to exchange temporary pleasures for eternal treasures?

And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." - Luke 9:23-24

Assignment

1. Do I withhold my love from my child (or others) when they do not perform the way I want them to?

2. What sacrifices am I willing to make to invest in my child?

3. Have I set my child (or others) up to fulfill me? Do I attempt to live vicariously through my child?

4. Do I communicate with my child in a way that cultivates trust, honesty and security?

5. Is it evident to my child that I regularly take steps to improve who I am and to grow in Christlikeness?

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. May my family prove to be a tower of strength built on the firm foundation I am laying in the power of Christ.

Midway Verses

Lesson 1

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Lesson 2

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)

Lesson 3

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 12:11)

Lesson 4

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Lesson 5

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

🌀 Hannah's Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 5

Memory Verse

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Hannah's Sacrifice: Hannah understood that in God's economy, sacrifice and selflessness yield life and hope.

Reread 1 Samuel 1:21-28.

❖ Hannah got what she prayed for, so we have a nice happy ending, right? Isn't that what praying is all about? Getting what we want?

❖ Have you ever been guilty of treating God like your servant?

Many of us treat God like a servant. We want Him involved in our lives only as long as it suits our plans. But that is not who God is—Hannah knew this. She wanted God's way more than her own.

❖ How long do you think it took Hannah to accept the Lord's plan? Did she try to make a deal or offer some other option?

Hannah knew that to serve God meant to submit to God. Submission to God is an admission of trust. You give up control of your life because you know God has your best interest in mind and you can trust Him to work things out for your good and for His glory. His way is always right, even if you can't fully see the rightness of it sometimes.

❖ Put yourself in Hannah's situation. God has asked something of you that you did not like! How will you (and how did you) respond?

Hannah gave up her dream, what she thought would bring her happiness. She had to let go of her plan and take hold of God's plan for Samuel. Ultimately, Hannah loved Samuel enough to sacrifice her own happiness for a better future for him. Parenting is all about sacrifice. God has woven