

Hannah's Prayer:

And Hannah prayed and said,

*“My heart exults in the LORD;
my horn is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.*

*“There is none holy like the LORD;
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.*

*Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.*

*The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.*

*Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.*

*The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children are forlorn.*

*The LORD kills and brings life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

*The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.*

*He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.*

*For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world.*

*He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
for not by might shall a man prevail.*

*The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.*

*The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”*

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah will leave behind the most precious thing in her life, her young son. Though she leaves Samuel with Eli, it is in the Lord that she places her trust. She chooses to praise; she chooses to look at the bigger picture.

❖ Discuss how Hannah; must be feeling on this day.

Incarcerated moms must make a daily choice to praise or pout, to fall into despair or fall into faith. The easy road, which we naturally lean towards, leads us to blame others, fight with those around us, and agonize over what ifs. The high road, the one that can only be walked by faith, leads us to a place of peace and satisfaction.

❖ What are you more likely to do, pout in despair or speak truth and rise up in faith?

Sometimes our feelings and emotions drag us down. We must go with what we know, rather than what we feel. Hannah's hope is in the Lord and she knows she has walked in obedience and confidence.

❖ Who are Hannah's enemies that she prays against?

❖ Who are the enemies in your life? (Give categories instead of names.)

❖ Do you face oppression from without and within?

❖ Do you have boldness to see past what is and hope for what is to come?

Hannah prays and prophesies about a day when sin will be defeated and God will triumph. What boldness for Hannah to see past what is and hope for what is to come!

Assignment

1. What can you learn from Hannah's prayer?

Perhaps your situation is similar to Hannah's.

- You've been nobody significant in the eyes of your family and friends.
- You've been the victim of selfish and greedy decisions of others.
- You've played your own role in those same battles.

2. Will you dare to be a Hannah? Will you be that woman through whom God can bring hope and healing? If so, speak it in faith.

🌀 Hannah's Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 6

Memory Verse

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)

Hannah's Prayer: Hannah prayed with expectation of triumph even in her darkest days. As she walked in obedience, she gained a greater understanding of God and His mission.

Hannah's prayer demonstrates that true strength comes through the weak and poor, not the high and mighty.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matthew 5:3

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.— 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

❖ How does the truth of these verses compare with what the world teaches?

Recall the dire circumstances of Hannah's world. The people's spiritual rebellion had led to political destruction. However, in just a few short years, God leads Samuel to anoint a king (David) who will lead the people back to proper worship and restore them politically to a place of power and peace.