

- ❖ Discuss what it means to love unconditionally. Why do we have such a hard time grasping this kind of love?

You may feel like your position in prison inhibits you from giving anything. The one thing your child really needs from you is your unconditional love. Your child needs to know that, no matter what, you have nothing but love for him or her and they can count on your prayers and steadfast love. This kind of love bears the fingerprint of our Creator, for only God Himself gives unconditional love.

When we show a love that does not demand anything in return, a love that does not waiver no matter what the other person does or doesn't do, we love with the Father's love.

- ❖ Perhaps you have imagined that God's love looks like human love.
- ❖ Maybe you think that He withholds His love from you whenever you disappoint Him.

You must be a constant and consistent presence in your child's life. Although time with your child may be limited, the quality of that time is more important.

- ❖ Discuss ways to best use time during visits with your child.
- ❖ Discuss possibilities for moms who do not get visits from their children.
- ❖ What are some age-appropriate ways to share with your child about your own spiritual journey and redemption?
- ❖ Discuss ways to be a godly influence even when there may be little to no contact with your child.

Assignment

1. List some age-appropriate activities that you think your child will enjoy during a visit with you. Plan ahead and put much effort into your visits with your child.
2. Like Samuel's robe, you are encouraged to provide your child with some sort of keepsake made by your hands. Each month you are expected to write a letter to your child. Let your letters form the written testimony of your faith journey that you want to pass on to your child. What are some deep-felt sentiments that you would like to express to your child?
3. This week you will write your first letter. Start developing the letter as your homework. Discuss as a group what would be good starting point for the first letter.

🌀 Hannah's Gift The Heart of a Mother 🌀

Lesson 8

Memory Verse

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

Hannah's Gift: Hannah stayed active in Samuel's life even though she was not there on a daily basis. The robe she made each year represents her attentiveness in Samuel's life.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD." So then they would return to their home. Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew into the presence of the LORD. —1 Samuel 2:18-21

- ❖ What can we learn from Hannah?
- ❖ How does this relate to you?

Samuel had a daily, tangible reminder of a loving mother. Your child, too, needs to know of a mother's constant love.

- ❖ What is it that your child really needs from you?