

Message Notes

Hannah: A Woman Who Desired a Child
Women of Grace
1 Samuel 1
May 13, 2007

Message Outline

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The Unfolding of Hannah's Story

1. **Her Sorrowful Affliction** (1:2-8)
2. **Her Struggling Petition** (1:9-11)
 - A. She acknowledges God's greatness.
 - B. She expresses her nothingness.
 - C. She asks specifically.
 - D. She vows sacrificially.
3. **Her Soaring Dedication** (1:12-28)
 - A. She dedicates herself to her son.
 - B. She dedicates her son to the Lord.
 - C. She dedicates herself to the Lord.
4. **God's Sovereign Benediction**
 - A. God uses Samuel to renew the nation from spiritual corruption and idolatry.
 - B. Samuel serves as the last judge and the first prophet, and as a crucial link between the period of the judges and the period of the kings.
 - C. Hannah has five more children! (2:21)
 - D. Hannah's Song is the model for Mary's Song.
 - E. Hannah's story is preserved as a model and lesson for all God's people everywhere.

The Applying of Hannah's Story

1. Hannah reminds us of the power and place of motherhood.
2. Hannah reminds us that all we experience is designed to turn us toward the Lord.
3. Hannah reminds us that we cannot out give God.
4. Hannah reminds us that our little stories are part of God's Big Story.
5. Hannah reminds us how the Gospel works.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read 1 Samuel 1-3. Summarize in a few sentences what is happening. Where does Hannah fit in this grand narrative? How does God take Hannah's trial and affliction and glorify Himself?
2. What similarities does Hannah's story have with Leah's story that we studied last week?
3. Why was Hannah sad and weeping? What does she do with her sorrow? When she prays, what is her motive? Does she want a child for only noble reasons? Describe the features of Hannah's prayer?
4. What is happening in 1:17? Is this a promise or a wish? Why was Hannah no longer sad in 1:18?
5. What evidence do we see of Hannah's dedication to her son? What evidence of her dedication to the Lord?
6. What is God's sovereign benediction or blessing in Hannah's life?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What in Hannah's story grabbed you or resonated with you? How did her experience speak to your own?
2. How does Hannah's story remind us of the place and power of motherhood? How is this different than some of the cultural messages we hear? What pains and trials are associated with motherhood?
3. How does Hannah remind us that all we experience in life is designed to turn us toward the Lord? Why do we often turn away from the Lord in our trials instead of toward Him? Where else do we turn? What specific thing are you praying for in your life today?
4. How does Hannah remind us that we cannot out give God? Which of the Lord's blessings do you tend to cling to? Why?
5. How does Hannah remind us that our little stories intersect God's Big Story? How was that true for her? Why is it so important, yet so hard to keep that in mind? How might that be true for us?
6. How does Hannah's story remind us how the Gospel works? (Look specifically at her prayer in chapter 2!) How is she a picture of the operations of sovereign grace? In what ways must we all become like Hannah?