



Seeking a fuller experience of life through faith and love with Jesus at the center. Come to City Grace to be a part of God's renewal of you and your city.

219 Sullivan St. New York, NY 10012
Sunday Worship 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

- Children's Worship (pre-K – 3rd)
- Free Coffee and Refreshments
- ALPHA at 1:00 pm (free lunch)
- Casual Dress
- Vibrant Worship

Introduction

- 1 and 2 Samuel are the historical books of the Bible that deal with the establishment of the monarchy in Israel
- Up until this time Israel was led by prophets and leaders but never had an official monarchy because God himself was their king.
- Samuel was the prophet used by God to lay the framework for the monarchy in Israel. Although God was displeased by the people's request for a king, he consented, knowing of course, that the role of the king would later be fully understood in the person of Christ.

Introduction to the story (Vs. 1-8)

- Note: prevalence of polygamy in the ancient world and in the OT
- Note: importance of having sons – means of survival when husband dies
- Barrenness is a sign of punishment or curse
- Vs. 3. Before there was a temple in Jerusalem, the tabernacle was pitched in Shiloh, and this served as the center of worship for the Israelite nation. Every year they made a pilgrimage to visit Shiloh, to see the tabernacle of God which contained the Arch of the Covenant. (See Judges 18:31)
- These pilgrimages and sacrifices were a time of great family celebration and feasting
- Vs. 5 Hannah receives a double portion of food because Elkanah pities her
- Vs. 6 Peninnah provokes Hannah. Why?
- Discussion: How must Hannah have felt during these times of family celebration? Can you relate in any way?

The Plot Thickens (vs. 9-20)

- Vs. 9-10. Hannah comes before God near the temple. How does Hannah present herself before God?
- Vs. 11. Hannah makes a vow before God. What is noteworthy about this vow?
- Vs. 12-14. Eli misunderstands what is happening and rebukes Hannah
- Vs. 15-16 Hannah defends herself and honestly tells him what was happening
- Vs. 17. Eli pronounces a blessing upon Hannah
- Vs. 18 What effect does all this have on Hannah?
- Discussion: what is the benefit of honestly pouring out our souls to God? Do we do this? If so, what good have we experienced from it. If not, why not?
- What happens if we don't get what we ask for? How do we deal with God saying, 'No?'
- Discussion: What is the wisdom of making vows to God? Is this something we should do if we really want something?

Conclusion (vs. 21-28)

- Vs. 21-22. Hannah refrains from traveling to Shiloh. Is Hannah holding out on God?
- Note: Hannah brings a significant offering along with the boy to help pay for the cost of raising him.
- Hannah commits Samuel to the Lord to serve him at the temple. She testifies to Eli that she has fulfilled her vow.

Application

- What is the best way to deal with disappointment with God?
- In this passage, where do you see God working behind the scenes? Identify passages that speak to God's control of the situation. What does this passage say about God
- How does God use hardship in our life for our benefit?
- What lessons could we take from this passage to apply to our life?