



IN SEARCH OF THE KING

Community Group Questions

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 | *Barren*

FOCUS

Through the life of Hannah, we see in microcosm that God will establish His anointed King to bring life and salvation to a broken and barren people. The necessary response is complete trust and dependence upon Him.

OPENING QUESTION

Can you think of a time in your life when you found yourself in utter and obvious dependence upon God?

READ

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 | You might also consider giving an overview or outline of the book of 1 Samuel.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

What's causing Hannah such grief and distress?

What does she do about it?

Basing your answer off the text, how would you describe her prayer?

Look carefully at the content of her prayer in verse 11. Who is she praying to; what is she praying for; and why?

What does Hannah's song tell us about who God is and how He acts?

Does her song teach you anything new about God that you hadn't really considered before?

How does this passage of Scripture exalt Jesus, particularly 2:9-10? (For example, you might like to read through Mary's song in Luke 1:39-55.)



CLOSING REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

How might this account of Hannah serve as a microcosm for the nation of Israel at that time in history? (Consider her fruitlessness, her enemies, her response, and the answer God provides.)

How might this account of Hannah serve as a microcosm for our own spiritual lives? (Consider her fruitfulness, her enemies, her response, and the answer God provides.)

Why do you think God so frequently uses a barren woman when He's about to do a great work in this world? (Think of Sarah, Rebekah, Samson's mother, and Elizabeth. And then there's Mary – while not barren, still not humanly capable of giving birth as a virgin.)

Are you depending fully on God and His Anointed for your salvation?

What would it look like for you to fully depend on God, not just for your salvation, but also for the whole of your life?

In light of 2:9 – for not by might shall a man prevail – to quote Dale Ralph Davis: are you “ever in danger of substituting ‘human gimmicks’ for dependence on ‘the God of the impossible’”?

Is there anything you feel particularly distressed about right now?

How does Hannah's prayer encourage you in your own?

How does looking back at Hannah's life – as you now know God's timing and plan to ultimately pave the way to Jesus via Samuel – help you to trust Him in the midst of your own struggles? (Try to think of examples both from the Bible and your own life of how despair was actually God's prelude to doing a mighty work.)