

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 26th March 2017

Going deeper

In 1 Samuel 2, Hannah prays an amazing prayer, whose teaching and theology prepares us for the rest of 1 Samuel. Famously, Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55, known as the *Magnificat*, adapts Hannah's prayer. However, there are also other echoes of the Hannah and Samuel narrative in Luke's infancy accounts.

Read Luke 2:22-52

5. Why do Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple when he is a baby? How does this custom show that children belong to God? (cf. Exo. 13:2, 11-15; Lev. 12:8)

6. Why did Mary and Joseph 'marvel' at Simon's words?

7. What do Simon's words to Mary the mother warn about? Why is Jesus's future going to be hard for his mother?

8. In light of the story of Hannah and Samuel, do Jesus's words in verse 49 make more sense?

9. How do verses 40, 52 echo 1 Samuel 2:26? What might it encourage us to pray for the children we know or care for?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

A Mother of Grace

1 Samuel 1:20-28 (page 271-272)

Space to take notes on the talk

• Children: A _____ gift

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Starter question

- ❖ Why do you think mothers find it hard when their children grow up and leave home?

Responding to the talk

1. What from this week's talk did you find most encouraging, interesting or challenging?
2. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20
 - a. Why is Hannah 'deeply troubled'?
 - b. What do you think Hannah believes about God?
 - c. Why does Hannah name the boy, 'Samuel'? What does that say about how she views her new baby?
3. Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28
 - a. Why do you think Hannah avoided going back to the house of God before Samuel was weaned?
 - b. Why does Hannah give Samuel back to the Lord?
 - c. What about Hannah's attitude is unique to her situation and what can we learn as a general principle for parents today?
4. Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21,26
 - a. How does Hannah continue to show care to her son even after leaving him at the house of God?
 - b. How is God 'gracious' to Hannah?
 - c. How is verse 26 a vindication of Hannah's actions?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. You have a Christian friend who has just become a new mother for the first time. She asks you for advice as to what should be her aims in bringing up a child. What would you say in light of what we've learnt?
11. In the light of all we have learnt how should we pray for the children and young parents in our church?