

For Your Family

Preparation: Read Exodus 1:8-22 ahead of time.

Explain to your children how the new king over Egypt was scared of the Hebrews, because there were so many of them. Explain how he mistreated them, and then finally ordered all the boy babies to be killed soon after they were born by throwing them into the river. Tell your children how horrible that was. What could a new mother do if she had a boy?

Read together Exodus 2:1-10

Talk together about how brave Moses' mother was to put her son into a floating basket, rather than just throw him in the river, like the king had ordered.

Talk together about how brave Moses' sister was to keep watch on the basket, and to approach Pharaoh's daughter.

Talk about how brave it was for Moses' mother to take care of the baby Moses, and then give him up to Pharaoh's daughter.

Talk together about how brave it was for Pharaoh's daughter to keep the Hebrew baby and raise him herself.

Talk together about how all this was God's plan to raise up a well trained leader for his people, the great man Moses.

It was God's plan, but He let many people play a part in it. Moses' mother and sister were heroes. Pharaoh's daughter was a hero. And then later, Moses would become a hero.

Talk together about how important our family and friends are to helping us follow God's plan for our lives. It took many people to make sure Moses would become the great leader he became. It takes many people to help us become what God wants us to be.

Pray together and thank God for the people He has placed in our lives.



Who is My Mother?

Mark 3:31-35

This Week: We are taking a break from our study of 1 Corinthians to celebrate Mother's Day. Although Mother's Day is not a biblical holiday, it is certainly biblical to "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12)

The sermon this week reminded us to renew our respect and admiration for motherhood, for these three realities:

1. God created motherhood to be held in high regard by giving mothers special and unique roles. Mothers give life, and mothers nurture life.
2. God's design for motherhood is being diluted and dishonored in our culture today.
3. The Savior of the world had a human mother!

Motherhood finds its finest expression in the will of God.

In the *Next Steps*, we were encouraged to read the accounts of significant mothers in the Bible:

Mary (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7, 19; John 2:1-11; 19:25-27)

Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-2:11)

Moses' mother (Exodus 2:1-10)

You can find the story of Moses' mother in our *For Your Family*.

We will be discussing together the story of Hannah for our *Sermon Application* this week.

Before You Read – The Situation of 1 Samuel

1 Samuel comes after the period of judges; in fact, Samuel in essence is the last judge. Remember the situation at the end of the book of Judges. Israel is politically vulnerable and economically disadvantaged. It is a mishmash of tribal activities and loyalties, and not really a nation. Israel is also morally corrupt, resulting in undisciplined religion (Judges 17–18) and brutal violence (Judges 20–21). The last verse in Judges reads: In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 and Discuss Together

1. What is the family situation of Elkanah? vss. 1-2

Note: Polygamy

The story treats the polygamy of Elkanah as a fact, without specifically condemning it. Polygamy is not God’s ideal, and the story does show the complications and unsavory results of having more than one wife. Polygamy in those days was a social convention used when a wife could not provide an heir for her husband’s estate.

Note: Barrenness

In Old Testament times, it was the ultimate tragedy for a wife to be unable to conceive. Children were necessary for a family to be able to build an estate; they were expected to take care of their parents in their old age, and insure the continuation of the family work and name.

2. How did Peninnah treat Hannah? vss. 6-7

3. How did that affect Hannah? vss. 7-8

4. How did Elkanah respond? vs. 8

5. After dinner, Hannah went to the temple.
How does verse 10 describe her emotional state and behavior?

In particular, what is the vow she makes to the Lord?

6. What is Eli the priest’s assessment of Hannah?
Why did he arrive at that conclusion?

7. What is Hannah’s response to Eli?
How does she describe herself and her behavior?

8. To his credit, what is Eli’s response?

9. What is Hannah’s response to Eli’s blessing?
Why do you think she changed her perspective so quickly?
Has her situation changed at this point?

10. What happens after they go back home?

11. Does Hannah keep her vow? How?

Continuing the Journey

1. What can we learn from Hannah in the way she presented herself to the Lord and asked for a son?

2. Can you share a time in your life when you were “downcast,” “deeply distressed,” or “troubled in spirit,” and you poured yourself out before the Lord in prayer?

3. In our story, Hannah changed her attitude, and even her emotional state, **before** her circumstances changed.
What does it take to be able to do that?
Can you share a time when you’ve been able to do this?

4. Notice that our story begins (vs. 3) and ends (vs. 28) with worship. How does regular worship contribute to your ability to maintain your perspective and emotional state?

5. The key actor in this story is the Lord. It was the Lord who made Hannah barren, but it was the Lord who enabled Hannah to have a son. Her son, Samuel, went on to become a key player in the transition of the people of Israel from the period of judges to the period of kingship. Samuel was a kingmaker. Praise the Lord for a woman who was willing to be real before the Lord, and commit the very thing she wanted so badly back to him!
Pray that you could have such a heart of honesty and humility.