

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Samuel (Learning from a Remarkable Child)

Week 1: Broken Dreams

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Week of May 9, 2021

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

We started a new 4-week series about the remarkable birth and childhood of the prophet Samuel. The first week was about how his mother dealt with broken dreams. Hannah's husband took a second wife because she was failing to give him children. Her pain was immense, but her godly response was admirable. We must follow Hannah's example as we deal with our own disappointments in life.

**Kicking it off:** In honor of Mother's Day, tell the group one interesting (or not so interesting) detail about you mom.

### Discussion:

1. Reread 1 Samuel 1:2 *Elkanah had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.*

Why is infertility particularly agonizing?

2. If you are willing, share of one broken dream in your life.

3. Reread 1 Samuel 1:6 *The Lord had closed Hannah's womb.*

Is it possible to discern if God is causing or if God is allowing a dream to be broken in your life?

4. Even in her deep confusion and disappointment, Hannah chose to go to the tabernacle in Shiloh and worship her God.

Why is it important to worship amid the storms of life?

5. Reread 1 Samuel 1:8 *Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"*

How would you critique Elkanah's attempt to cheer up his wife?

6. Reread 1 Samuel 1:10 *In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.*

Why is it important to take your disappointment to God in prayer?

7. The priest, named Eli, thought Hannah was drunk. She explained that she was completely sober and actually praying. In verse 17, Eli said, *"Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."*

Why did this interaction encourage Hannah deeply?

8. How has God helped you deal with the disappointments in your life?

**Wrapping It Up:** Ask the "God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3) to comfort us in all our trouble.