



“My heart rejoices in the Lord.” 1 Samuel 2:1

Bible Study:

Read Samuel 1 and 2. Meditate on the anguish, Hannah was experiencing, as well as the anguish of the nation of Israel, as exemplified in Eli's sons! Then, turn your affections to the Lord as you read Hannah's prayer, which is largely prophetic in nature, pointing to a much-needed Savior, Jesus!

The gospel in the story:

Hannah's story comes on the heels of about 250 years of turmoil during the time of the judges. It was a time when "Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." Hannah's yearning for child is a picture of what the nation of Israel was experiencing – yearning for a King. Like Hannah, Israel needed God's sovereign intervention to heal their brokenness. Just as the birth of Samuel was an answer to Hannah's prayers, in a larger sense, it was an answer to Israel's prayers for deliverance from their sinful ways. God would use Samuel in a powerful way in the unfolding of His plan of salvation through the eventual birth, life and death of the one true King, Jesus.

*Application**Head:* **What did we learn?**

Q: Who are Elkanah and Hannah? A: Israelites who were faithful worshippers of God
Q: Why was Hannah sad? A: She couldn't have children.
Q: How did Hannah deal with her "anguish and grief"? A: She prayed to the Lord, asking Him to remember her.
Q: Did God hear her prayers? A: Yes. All of them.
Q: How did the story end? A: God gave Hannah a son, Samuel, and she dedicated him to God's service.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

Hannah was not selfish with her son Samuel. She recognized that Samuel was a gift from God, and was pleased to dedicate him to God's service. Godly households, put greater emphasis on God, the leader of our households, than the people or the contents of our households.

Heart: **Memory verse**

"My heart rejoices in the Lord." 1 Samuel 2:1

Heaven: **How does this help us share our faith?**

As our friends and neighbors watch how we deal with hard times in our lives, will they see that we remain faithful in prayer, and at peace with whatever God's answer is?

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

The story of Hannah's faithfulness and trust in the Lord as she waits for a son is a good picture of Romans 12:12, which instructs us to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.