

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 17, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 2:1-11

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 2:9

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:1.** Christ said, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34) Hannah here shows the depths of her heart in this song to the Lord. This verse begins with the focus of her own heart and expresses her joy in God. What are some of the ways that she expresses the salvation that she has received? What do each of these phrases mean?

(b) Hannah has only one “enemy,” but she speaks of many enemies in this verse. Whose enemies might she be speaking about (Psalm 139:21-22)? What is the source of Hannah’s happiness in this verse? What could she have been happy about?

(c) Hannah has a deep understanding of the Lord’s sovereignty in all that has happened to her. How should this affect how we give praise or take joy in things that we experience in life? Is your first response when a turn of events happens, to praise God? How have you or can you cultivate a real sense of God’s hand in all areas of your life (Psalm 63:1-3)?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:1. Read and answer question (a). Who does Hannah give credit to for all that has happened to her? How do you give credit to God? Do you see God’s hand in the good things you receive? Ask God to give you eyes to see that every good and perfect gift comes from Him.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:2-3.** This song of Hannah’s follows the rules of Hebrew poetry. In Hebrew poetry, lines do not rhyme. They use parallelism or simply put they repeat the same idea or an opposite idea in a corresponding line. It can get a little more complicated than this, but verse 2 is a good example of this. The first and third lines relate to one another very closely.

(b) What idea would you say is expressed in these two lines? How are they different? What is the second line communicating as the focus of this verse?

(c) These ideas are foundational ideas for our faith and for Hannah’s (see Leviticus 11:44; Exodus 15:11; Deuteronomy 32:4). Why are these truths so important for us? How does it give us hope in times of trial?

(d) How does this compare to the way most people think of God? How does verse 3 describe the attitude of the world? What is the warning Hannah gives? How does this warning help keep us both humble and grateful (Romans 5:8)?

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:2-3. What are the three things that verse 2 is saying about God? Why are these three things so important, especially in times of trial? When have you found comfort in these truths? Why is it that people get prideful? How does Hannah remind us to be humble? Confess to God any pride that you might have, then look up and read Romans 5:8.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:4-7.** In this section of the psalm, we have a very important and somewhat controversial theme. Looking at verses 4-5, what is happening in each one of these pairs of examples? In light of what has happened to Hannah, are these positive or negative things? Why?

(b) In verses 6-7, Hannah makes it explicit that this is the Lord’s doing. List the things that Hannah attributes to the Lord’s will. When we look at our own situation and the situations of others, does it seem that God is fair? Why does God’s sovereignty sometimes cause us to rejoice and sometimes cause us to be confused (maybe even despairing)?

(c) Read Psalm 73. What is it that changes the way Asaph sees injustice? What can we learn from both Hannah and Asaph about the comfort of God’s sovereign hand?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:4-7. What is happening in verses 4 and 5? Who is it that is in charge of these reversals? Why is it important for us to remember that it is the Lord who is control? Why is this not a scary thing? Thank God today that He is good and sovereign and cares for His people.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:8.** Verse 8 acts as a summary for verses 4-7. What is the reason that Hannah gives for why God is allowed/able to be the arbiter of people’s fortune?

(b) Read Psalm 24. David in this psalm extols the greatness of the Lord. How is God's role as Creator the foundation for both His holiness and His power according to David?

(c) How does this help you understand the reason why the debate over creationism is so important? What do we lose if God has not personally created the world according to His purposes?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:8. Why is it that God is able raise up the poor from the dust? Why is it so important for us to know that God has created the earth? How does evolution undermine this? When you look at nature, what do you think about God and the fact that He has created everything you see? Thank God for His creation and blessings that He brings through it.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:9-11.** Our memory verse for this week is verse 9. It is a good one to memorize and to meditate on. It is a verse that can act as a seed of hope and when times are hard, bring forth fruit. Take some time and begin to commit this verse to memory. As you memorize this verse, take some time to think over this verse and write down what the Lord might be speaking to you.

(b) Verse 10 is an encouraging reminder that God will bring justice upon the earth. Justice delayed will still be justice in full. Why is it hard for people to accept such a delayed justice? Why is a right understanding of God's attributes essential to having hope in light of this?

(c) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:9-11. Our memory verse for this week is verse 9. It is a good one to memorize and to meditate on. It is a verse that can act as a seed of hope and when times are hard, bring forth fruit. Take some time and, as a family, begin to commit this verse to memory. What does this verse mean? Why does it offer us hope? How are we to respond in the face of evil? Pray that God would give you the strength to be faithful.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read through this psalm of thanksgiving again. What part of this psalm do you most need to hear today? Why? Take some time and encourage someone else with what God has taught you through this Psalm.

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A Prayer of Hope

“There is none holy like the LORD”