

The King & The Kingdom

1 Samuel 1 Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important that we read and study all the types of literature in the Bible? What is your favorite type of literature in the Bible? What type of literature are you least familiar/comfortable?
2. 1 Samuel is part of the historical narrative section, which is the largest genre. Why is it important for us to read and study the historical narrative books of the Bible? Do you have a favorite book or story from this section?

God's Kingdom brings hope to the hopeless

3. Hannah is hopeless because she is unable to have children. Verse 2 indicates that she was Elkanah's first wife, which probably means that he had a second wife because of her barrenness. Some people will point to polygamy in the Bible as evidence that we should not look to the Bible as our authority. How would you respond to this criticism?
4. What is the difference between descriptive and prescriptive aspects of the Bible? What are some examples of each? Why is it important for us to learn to distinguish between the two?
5. Infertility is a difficult and sensitive issue. Have you wrestled with this issue or known someone who wrestled with this? Have you or others you know ever considered adoption?
6. We are supposed to see that Hannah's physical barrenness is a picture of Israel's spiritual barrenness. What are some ways Israel is spiritually barren? What are some ways we (like Hannah and Israel) are barren and hopeless?
7. We discover the good news that God delights in bringing hope to hopelessness. He gives Hannah a child (v.20) and Israel a king. But God wants them and us to see that He alone can bring hope to our hopelessness. What are some examples of "things" we tend to chase thinking they will bring us hope?
8. Is there a certain time in your life when this lesson was driven home that God alone can satisfy your needs and give hope to your hopelessness?

God's Kingdom brings honor to the humble

9. Even though it is the Lord who closed her womb (vv. 5-6), Hannah doesn't allow her hopelessness to crush her and she doesn't curse God in her pain. Instead, she responds with humility before the Lord. What are some ways we see Hannah responding with humility?
10. Have you ever been in a situation like Hannah where you were sad and hurting, but you responded humbly? Have you ever responded in an unhealthy way? Explain.
11. Hannah is an incredible example of humility that God honors. We have an even more incredible example of humility in Jesus: (1) because of the honor He left when he humbled himself, (2) because of the extent of his humility, (3) because of what his humility accomplished for us. Explain each of these.
12. Jesus was honored and we can be honored with him. Why should this encourage us to humility? Why are we not more motivated to humble ourselves?