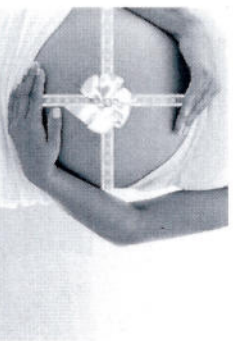


God's Story™ Our Story



God Answers Hannah

October 16, 2016

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

You are a Lord of mercy who heeds the prayers of your people. Grant us those requests which will glorify you and bring us into more perfect devotion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:19-20

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Hannah knows what she wants, and is bold enough to ask for it. However, the intensity of her prayer is equaled by her promise to dedicate her son to the Lord. How could God resist such a request?

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

God answers prayer.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *God Answers Hannah*, 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Monday: *God Calls Samuel*, 1 Samuel 3:1-18

Tuesday: *The Ark of God Captured*, 1 Samuel 4:2-11, 6:2, 11-13

Wednesday: *Samuel Anoints Saul as King*, 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8, 10:17-27

Thursday: *Saul Rejected and David Anointed*, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Friday: *David Defeats Goliath*, 1 Samuel 17:1-54

Saturday: *David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem*, 2 Samuel 6:1-23

What are the benefits and drawbacks for Israel to shift from a tribal nation to a kingdom? How might our political system serve God?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How do you think prayer works? How did Hannah's prayer affect her life? How did affect the future of Israel?

What have you asked God for that still awaits an answer? What did you bargain in return for a favorable answer? Does God require something in exchange for answered prayer? Where do you see God working while you wait for the answer?

DO: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Set aside 10 minutes every day to pray in a way you're not used to. Here are some possibilities: a quiet, still posture of prayer; yoga; meditation; mindfulness; prayer while walking or running; be creative with your prayer life. How did the habit of prayer affect your mood?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God hear your prayers and answer favorably. Amen.