



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of April 27, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What has been a source of joy in the past few years? A source of grief? What brings comfort in the midst of grief?

I Samuel 1:1-8 Grief

¹There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. ²He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. ⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

- I Samuel begins with the genealogy of Elkanah, as if we were going to hear an account of his life. Instead, we are giving the story of Hannah's private grief. Why?
- How does the record of Elkanah's ancestry underscore Hannah's plight? (1)
- Hannah was childless, a condition in the Bible with strong connotations. Read [Genesis 16:4-5; 30:1; and Luke 1:24-25](#)-- What emotions, spiritual assumptions, and relational dynamics are associated with childlessness in these passages?
- The description of these family dynamics occurs in the context of a worship service (3). What responses did Hannah's childlessness evoke in her? In Elkanah? In Peninnah? (4-8)
- Consider a time the LORD did not appear to answer you when you prayed, and share that story with the group. What struggles and temptations did you wrestle with? What did you need to believe in that season?
- In this week's passage, God paints such a painfully strained picture of Elkanah's household. Read [Genesis 2:24](#) for more insight.
- Pray together in response to God's Word.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org