

PERSONAL REFLECTION

The SHADOW KING

1 Samuel 1 & 2
Hannah's Hope

Pastor Justin Carruthers

Gateway Community Church

October 22, 2023

Personal Reflection Question

READ Psalm 63. This Psalm reminds us of Hannah's prayer in [1 Samuel 1:11](#). Have you ever pleaded with God for something, earnestly like Hannah did? What was that all about? How did it pan out? Perhaps you are pleading with God currently, about a health crisis, a broken relationship, financial burdens, or a wandering child (etc.). How does a Psalm like this, and Hannah's prayer leave you encouraged?

Prayer Requests

Weekly Bible Reading Plan

Used from the *READ SCRIPTURE* app, available for both Android and Apple devices.

- October 22: Romans 5-6 | Psalm 135
- October 23: Romans 7-8 | Psalm 136
- October 24: Romans 9-10 | Psalm 137
- October 25: Romans 11-12 | Psalm 138
- October 26: Romans 13-14 | Psalm 139
- October 27: Romans 15-16 | Psalm 140
- October 28: 1 Corinthians 1-2 | Psalm 141

Grab your copy of **The Shadow King** series introduction booklet from the lobby, or find it online at the livestream page of gatewaycrc.org!



Judges 21:25, 1 Samuel 8:7

THE PLAIN MAIN THING:

- Any alternative to build your life on, other than _____, leads to _____

HOW WE OFTEN BARGAIN WITH GOD

- Prayer _____
- Prayer _____
- _____

THE CHRISTIAN COUNTER-RESPONSE

- Prayer _____
- _____ (regardless of the _____)

Judges 18:24

THE IDOL TEST

- Is my prayer (my dream) something I want for _____, or for _____?
1 Samuel 2:10

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What is in the trunk of your car right now?
2. What song or band are you embarrassed to admit that you love?

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you??
2. This past weekend Pastor Justin talked about the two voices speaking to Hannah (Peninnah and Elkanah), seeking to convince her to build her life on something other than God (which is idolatry). What are the things we are most tempted to place our identity in today?

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

READ 1 Samuel 1:1-17

1. What does this passage say about the character of God?
2. What does this passage say about fallen humanity and the world we are in?
3. Where does this passage specifically expose sin or unbelief in my own life? How does it specifically call me to change my thinking, redirect my affections, replace behaviors, and trust in my Savior?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **READ 1 Samuel 1:2 & 5.** This wasn't the first time a barren woman was used by the Lord for His kingdom purposes. Who else faced similar circumstances? What do you think was the significance of God including these women and their plight in His plan of redemption?
 - **READ Psalm 13.** These barren situations point to Israel's distance from God. How have you felt God lift you from spiritual distance in your own life?
2. **READ 1 Samuel 1:9-11.** In such a time of spiritual apathy and apostasy, Hannah turns to the Lord in prayer. What do you think was different about her faith, than that of the whole nation?
 - **READ Matthew 6:5-8, & Philippians 4:4-6.** While we have the full vantage point of scripture, including this story with Hannah's prayer, Christ's teachings, as well as Paul's instructions, why is it that we often dismiss our need to turn to the Lord in prayer?
 - What might we be able to learn from Hannah's example of prayer?
3. **READ 1 Samuel 1:18-20.** This doesn't sound like it was an immediate answer, there must have been more waiting on Hannah's part. Why does the Lord ask us to wait?
 - **READ Psalm 27:13-14, & Isaiah 40:28-31.** What are you currently waiting on the Lord for?
 - As Hannah felt joy following her request ahead of God's answer, do you feel the same as you wait upon the Lord? What can help point you to that same joy?

TAKING IT HOME

READ Judges 18:24, & 1 Samuel 1:24-28. Contrasting narratives here depict the heart that the Lord desires for us as He has granted us all that we need for this life. What is the posture of our hearts that we're challenged to have? Is this an easy or difficult posture to maintain in life? Why?