

Mother's Day - 5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. It will focus on the profound themes of motherhood, dependence on God, and the lessons we can learn from the biblical figure of Hannah.

Day 1

1 Samuel 1:10-11

10 Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the Lord and wept with many tears. 11 Making a vow, she pleaded, "Lord of Armies, if you will take notice of your servant's affliction, remember and not forget me, and give your servant a son, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and his hair will never be cut."

The story of Hannah is a powerful reminder of the emotional and spiritual burdens mothers carry. She poured out her heart to the Lord in her time of need. In the midst of her distress, rather than succumbing to bitterness, Hannah chose to seek God. Her heartfelt prayer was personal and raw, illustrating that true faith often embraces vulnerability and dependence on God. When faced with uncertainty, it is vital for us to turn our cries upwards, seeking God's presence and His answers.

- What burdens are you currently carrying that you need to bring before God?
- How might you rely more on God's strength in times of distress?
- What does pouring out your heart to God look like for you personally?
- Pray for the ability to recognize your burdens and to seek God's help in them.
- Ask God to strengthen your faith and reliance on Him in difficult times.

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Day 2

1 Samuel 1:27-28

27 I prayed for this boy, and since the Lord gave me what I asked him for, 28 I now give the boy to the Lord. For as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord." Then he[a] worshiped the Lord there.

In Hannah's journey, we see the profound act of surrender. After years of desperation and prayer, God granted her request for a child, but Hannah's response was to dedicate Samuel back to the Lord. This act of surrender highlights a deep trust in God's plan that goes beyond our personal desires. Hannah teaches us that dedicating our children—not just physically but spiritually and emotionally—is essential in our roles as parents or spiritual leaders.

As we reflect on Hannah's dedication of Samuel, we are invited to consider how we approach our calling to nurture and guide the next generation. Are we holding onto control, or are we willing to release our children into God's hands, trusting Him to shape their futures? This act of dedication affirms our recognition that God loves our children infinitely more than we can.

- In what ways are you currently surrendering your children or those you influence to God?
- What fears or reservations do you have about letting go of control?
- How can you actively dedicate your children's lives to God in prayer and action?
- Pray for guidance on how to surrender your children's futures to God.
- Ask God to help you release control and trust in His plans.

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Day 3

1 Samuel 2:1-2
2 Hannah prayed:
My heart rejoices in the Lord;
my horn is lifted up by the Lord.
My mouth boasts over my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.
2 There is no one holy like the Lord.

There is no one besides you!

And there is no rock like our God.

Hannah's song of praise following Samuel's birth is a testament to her deep appreciation for God's faithfulness. In expressing her gratitude, Hannah models the importance of worship and thanksgiving in our lives. Celebrating God's blessings not only strengthens our faith but reminds us of His constant presence in our journeys. Hannah offers a beautiful example of how to respond to God's grace with joy and reverence.

As we reflect on our own lives, it's vital to cultivate a spirit of gratitude, even when circumstances are challenging. Praising God for His provisions, big or small, helps us stay connected to His goodness. Worship serves as a powerful reminder of God's promises, encouraging us to trust Him amidst uncertainties.

- What blessings can you thank God for today?
- How can you incorporate more worship and gratitude into your daily life?
- In what ways can a heart of gratitude impact your perspective during tough times?
- Spend time praising God for His past faithfulness in your life.
- Ask God to help you cultivate a grateful heart in all circumstances.

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Day 4

1 Samuel 1:15-16

15 "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord. 16 Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment."

Hannah's vulnerability shines through in her prayer before Eli, where she openly admits to her brokenness and anguish. This act emphasizes the significance of being transparent about our struggles, flaws, and fears—not just to God but to others around us. In a world that often pushes us to portray strength and perfection, true authenticity can be a powerful testimony of faith.

Every individual, especially mothers, can feel immense pressure to embody the perfect image. Hannah showcases that there is strength in admitting our weaknesses and seeking support. We need community where we can share our struggles and find encouragement and prayer. Being

vulnerable can open the door for God's healing and support to flow not only into our lives but into the lives of those around us.

- How open are you about your struggles with those around you?
- What can you learn from Hannah's example of vulnerability?
- Who can you turn to for support when facing challenges?
- Pray for the courage to be vulnerable and authentic with God and others.
- Ask God to help you recognize the value of community and support in your life.

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Day 5

1 Samuel 1:20

20 After some time, [a] Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, [b] because she said, "I requested him from the Lord."

The narrative of Hannah ultimately leads to the birth of Samuel, who became a significant prophet and judge for Israel. This trajectory reminds us that our faithful prayers and acts of dependence have the potential to usher in God's plans in ways we may never fully understand. Through Hannah's dedication, we see the impact that one devoted life can have on future generations.

As we conclude this devotional, let us reflect on how our dependence on God can shape not only our lives but also the destinies of those we influence. When we instill reliance on God in our children, we equip them to navigate their paths with faith and purpose, leading to their future impact on the world.

- How does knowing the story of Hannah inspire you to pray for the future of your children?
- What legacy do you wish to leave for those looking up to you?
- How can you actively support others in their faith journeys?
- Pray for the future of those you influence, seeking God's guidance and purpose for them.
- Ask God to help you recognize the legacy you are building through your faith.

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