



Sermon Questions: *A Child is Born: Hannah & Samuel*

Date: *December 12, 2021* | Scripture: *1 Samuel 1:1-20*

1. Consider the past week. Where do we run for comfort? And where do we run for joy?
2. Consider Hannah's situation. In the face of the emotional, relational and psychological pain she faced, exacerbated by Penninah's cruelty and Elkanah's shortcomings, compounded by the financial, reputational and safety factors of childlessness in her time, how might you have counselled her?
3. Verses 9-11 suggest that Hannah was willing to give up all the benefits of having a son, if the LORD would give one. What, then, is her deepest desire here? Study v11.
4. Hannah went to the temple (v11) to seek the LORD in her distress. Eli, like others, failed to understand or help her. Yet she came away 'no longer sad' (v18). What happened? How might it encourage us when seeking to help and love those facing crises?
5. In v19, Hannah and her family worship the LORD, but nothing in their world has changed yet. Unlike Hannah, we can look back at the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. How does this change the waiting for us?

Inward Grace in Action

The questions below are a little more intimate and are meant to be discussed with a trusted friend or partner.

1. Facing storms—infertility, financial distress, mental health crisis, pain in marriage, and many more—can be isolating. Community is deeply important in these times, but like Eli, the church and its people will fail to care well at times. How can Hannah's experience speak to your struggle with areas of pain in your life?
2. What do you long to pray about, but haven't? Take time, and ask members of your CG to help you make time to do it.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 9:1-6
- Job 13
- Habbakuk 3:17-19
- Mark 5:21-43
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- 1 John 5:1-12

Pray for unreached people groups and our mission partners at the Third Thursday Dinner at MPC.

Worship using our Advent Devotional resource, in print or [online](#).

Invite friends who don't know Jesus to Advent events, or to dinner at your home.

Listen to our Spotify playlist [A Child is Born: Advent 2021](#)

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

You can also find additional resources on our website: capitalpres.org