

Small Group Discussion Guide
The Birth and Dedication of Samuel

Icebreaker:

- Who picked on you the most when you were growing up?
- When have you received a gift that was a total surprise?

The Lord answers Hannah's prayer with a son who would become a prophet and Israel's last great judge. In fulfillment of the vow she made, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord's service.

Read: 1 Samuel 1:1-28

1. What was the worst thing Hannah had to cope with?
2. Why was Hannah's grief so intense at the annual sacrifices?
3. What can you relate to in this story?
a) I know what it's like to badly want a child b) I know what it's like to be taunted or provoked c) like Elkanah, I have been unable to comfort my spouse d) I have poured my soul to God e) I need to pour out my soul to God
4. What is the most reassuring point of the story for you?
5. Hannah was no longer downcast after talking to Eli. What lifts your spirits when you are down?
6. Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord. What aspect of your life do you need to dedicate or rededicate to God?
7. How can this group pray for you? Pour out our souls for you?