

## FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

AS WE STUDY ABOUT HANNAH THROUGH THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL LEARN THAT HANNAH GOT THE BIG PICTURE AND THAT SHE TRUSTED GOD EVEN BEFORE HER PRAYER WAS ANSWERED. DO YOU GET THE BIG PICTURE? WE ARE BEING REFINED THROUGH LIFE'S HARDSHIPS FOR A GRANDER PURPOSE.

REVIEW THE VERSES BELOW AND PONDER THE HARDSHIPS OF YOUR LIFE, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS TAUGHT YOU THROUGH LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES AND WHAT HE WILL TEACH YOU. WORSHIP HIM, MAKING A LIST OF EVERY TRAIT THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD, AND WORSHIPPING HIM FOR THOSE TRAITS. ASK HIM TO MAKE YOUR LIFE A TESTIMONY OF WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH A WOMAN YIELDED TO HIM AND WORSHIPPING HIM, DESPITE HER LIFE SITUATIONS.

ISAIAH 48:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup>BEHOLD, I HAVE REFINED YOU, BUT NOT AS SILVER; I HAVE TESTED YOU IN THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION.

ZECHARIAH 13:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>I WILL BRING THE *ONE-THIRD* THROUGH THE FIRE, WILL REFINE THEM AS SILVER IS REFINED, AND TEST THEM AS GOLD IS TESTED. THEY WILL CALL ON MY NAME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEM. I WILL SAY, 'THIS IS MY PEOPLE'; AND EACH ONE WILL SAY, 'THE LORD IS MY GOD.' "

MALACHI 3:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup>"BUT WHO CAN ENDURE THE DAY OF HIS COMING? AND WHO CAN STAND WHEN HE APPEARS? FOR HE IS LIKE A REFINER'S FIRE AND LIKE LAUNDERERS' SOAP.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-15 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup>FOR NO OTHER FOUNDATION CAN ANYONE LAY THAN THAT WHICH IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST. <sup>12</sup>NOW IF ANYONE BUILDS ON THIS FOUNDATION *WITH* GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES, WOOD, HAY, STRAW, <sup>13</sup>EACH ONE'S WORK WILL BECOME CLEAR; FOR THE DAY WILL DECLARE IT, BECAUSE IT WILL BE REVEALED BY FIRE; AND THE FIRE WILL TEST EACH ONE'S WORK, OF WHAT SORT IT IS. <sup>14</sup>IF ANYONE'S WORK WHICH HE HAS BUILT ON *IT* ENDURES, HE WILL RECEIVE A REWARD. <sup>15</sup>IF ANYONE'S WORK IS BURNED, HE WILL SUFFER LOSS; BUT HE HIMSELF WILL BE SAVED, YET SO AS THROUGH FIRE.



**HANNAH'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD OF SABAOTH  
(THE LORD OF HOSTS)  
A Story of Worship**

I Samuel 1:11 – And she made a vow, saying, O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.

**Friday Morning Session I – Hannah's Situation**

I Samuel 1:1-7

Hannah's name means: grace, gracious, favor

Hannah's husband's name was: Elkanah

The other wife's name was: Peninnah

Sources of Stress:

- 1) Political Stress
- 2) Religious Stress
- 3) Family Stress
  - a) Polygamy
  - b) Infertility
  - c) Harassed           “year after year”

In Psalm 42:6, the psalmist acknowledged his human depth of sorrow when he said, “O my God, my soul is cast down within me”

In Psalm 73:2-3, another psalmist recognized his frailty in this world when he said, “But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked”

My life is but a weaving  
Between my Lord and me;  
I cannot choose the colors.  
He worketh steadily.

Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow  
And I, in foolish pride,  
Forget that He seeth the upper,  
And I the under side.

Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly,  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the Weaver's skillful hand,  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

## Session I – Table Discussion Questions

Think about what situations you need to trust God for today? Difficult relationships, living in financial need/debt, struggles with your husband, disappointment in the lives of your children, psychological or physical abuse, loneliness, desire for a husband, lack of respect or recognition, too many things on your plate, illness or illness of someone near to you, other losses?

Find three promises in God's Word that strengthen the threads of your faith and discuss how these promises strengthen those threads.

Three examples:

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Philippians 4:7 – And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

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**Friday Evening Session II - Her Vow and Results**  
I Samuel 1:8-11

God uses affliction to draw us to prayer and to the LORD.

Hannah made a choice, she accepted God's appointment to brokenness and ran to the sufficiency of Jehovah Sabaoth. (the Lord of Hosts)

Scripture tell us in Philippians 4:6-7 to "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

We should view anything that makes us need God as a blessing - it pushes us to God.

In Psalm 130:1, the Psalmist said, "Out of the depths, I have cried to You, O LORD. and in James 5:13 Scripture says, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray..."

**A. Who is the Lord of Sabaoth? The Lord of Hosts?**

Each name of God tells about the character and the heart and ways of God.

The Lord of Hosts is a title that emphasizes God's Rule over every other power in the natural and spiritual universe.

It is a name that describes God as having universal sovereign command over all.

The Lord of Sabaoth can also be translated Lord the Able One or He is able or the Lord Almighty - the One who holds sway over ALL things.

Martin Luther used this descriptive term in regards to Jesus Christ in the second Verse of the hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God:

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

When Hannah called on the Lord of Hosts, she saw her circumstances as orchestrated by God.

By using the name, the Lord of Hosts, she came to God in Worship, Reverence, and Submission, with the recognition that God is in control and has all the power.

Psalm 46:10-11 – Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 84:12 – O LORD of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in you!

Zechariah 1:3 – Therefore say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts: Return to Me, say the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

Amos 4:13 – For behold, He who forms mountains, And creates the winds, Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, who treads the high places of the earth – The LORD God of hosts is His name.

Isaiah 44:6 – Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

The Lord of Hosts was there for Elisha & his Servant – 2 Kings 6:14-17  
“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

No matter who is against us, God is for us.

David addressed God as the Lord of Hosts when he faced Goliath in Chapter 17 of I Samuel. He chose to fix his eyes not on the size of Goliath but on the size of His God. The battle was not his but the Lord of Hosts.

In Romans 8:31, Paul says: When then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

The writer of Hebrews said in Hebrews 13:6: So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

I John 5:4 – For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.

## **B. What was her Prayer/Vow?**

I Samuel 1:11-19

- 1) Submission to a Higher Authority and Sense of Dependence on God

Prayer in times of suffering is not an optional exercise but a command.

Prayer requires a conscious awareness and acceptance on our part of our human helplessness and a reliance upon God's resources.

2) Made a specific request.

Doesn't demand in her prayer but poured out her heart to the LORD.

Tell God your requests – Be specific.

3) Sacrifice – An Astounding Promise

4) She had an eternal focus

5) Misunderstood and Condemned

- a) She spoke with wisdom and kindness (Proverbs 31:26)
- b) She most likely thought before she spoke. (Proverbs 15:28)
- c) She was most likely soft-spoken, not loud certainly (Proverbs 15:1)
- d) She was sweet in her speech (Proverbs 16:21)
- e) She was instructive in her response (Proverbs 16:23)
- f) She chose to err on the side of less (no long discourse of her situation)(Proverbs 10:19)

And what was Eli's response to her gracious speech? He gave her his blessing

6) Burden Lifted - Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)

7) Worship

Worship is the great theme of Hannah's story and should be the great theme of your life and my life.

When you suffer, worship.

When you are confused, worship.

When you are lonely, worship.

When you are anxious, worship.

When you are criticized, worship.

Make it a daily habit to worship.

Worship is:

- a) Fellowship with God.
- b) The first step toward wisdom.
- c) Inward Reverence.
- d) Nourishing to our Soul.

### **C. Results**

I Samuel 1:20-28

I Samuel 2:11

I Samuel 2:18-21

#### 1) Prayer Answered

The more I realize God is in control, the more I can relax.

God knows when is the time to fulfill the deepest longings of your heart.

The time is when God will get the most glory.

Samuel means "Heard of God".

#### 2) Faithful to Keep Her Vow

Samuel was to live "before the Lord".

Session II – Table Discussion Questions:

Was Elkanah successful in consoling his wife, Hannah? I Sam 1:5-8

Was Hannah's vow to the Lord of Hosts a form of bribery or an expression of devotion?

What caused the change in Hannah after she prayed and made her vow?

Had her circumstances changed?

Had she received any concrete assurance that God would give her what she asked for?

What one point can you take from this session and apply to your life and why? What spoke to you?

## SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

WHAT HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF YOUR RECENT PRAYER TIMES? IF IT HAS BEEN TOO SELF-CENTERED, ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOUR PRAYER BE MORE CENTERED ON HIM.

THANK GOD FOR THE WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE OF BEING A MEMBER OF HIS KINGDOM. PRAY FOR SEVERAL PEOPLE BY NAME WHOM YOU KNOW ARE NOT PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

PRAY AND ASK GOD TO CONFORM YOUR HEART AND MIND TO HIS WILL IN EVERYTHING. IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING WITH HIS WILL IN A CERTAIN SITUATION, PRAY ABOUT THAT ESPECIALLY.

READ I SAMUEL 17

HOW BIG ARE THE GIANTS IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW BIG IS GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

WHOSE ARM ARE YOU TRUSTING IN? THE ARM OF FLESH? OR THE ARM OF THE LORD OF HOSTS?

WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS IN THE BATTLE? ON THE GIANTS OR ON THE LORD OF HOSTS?

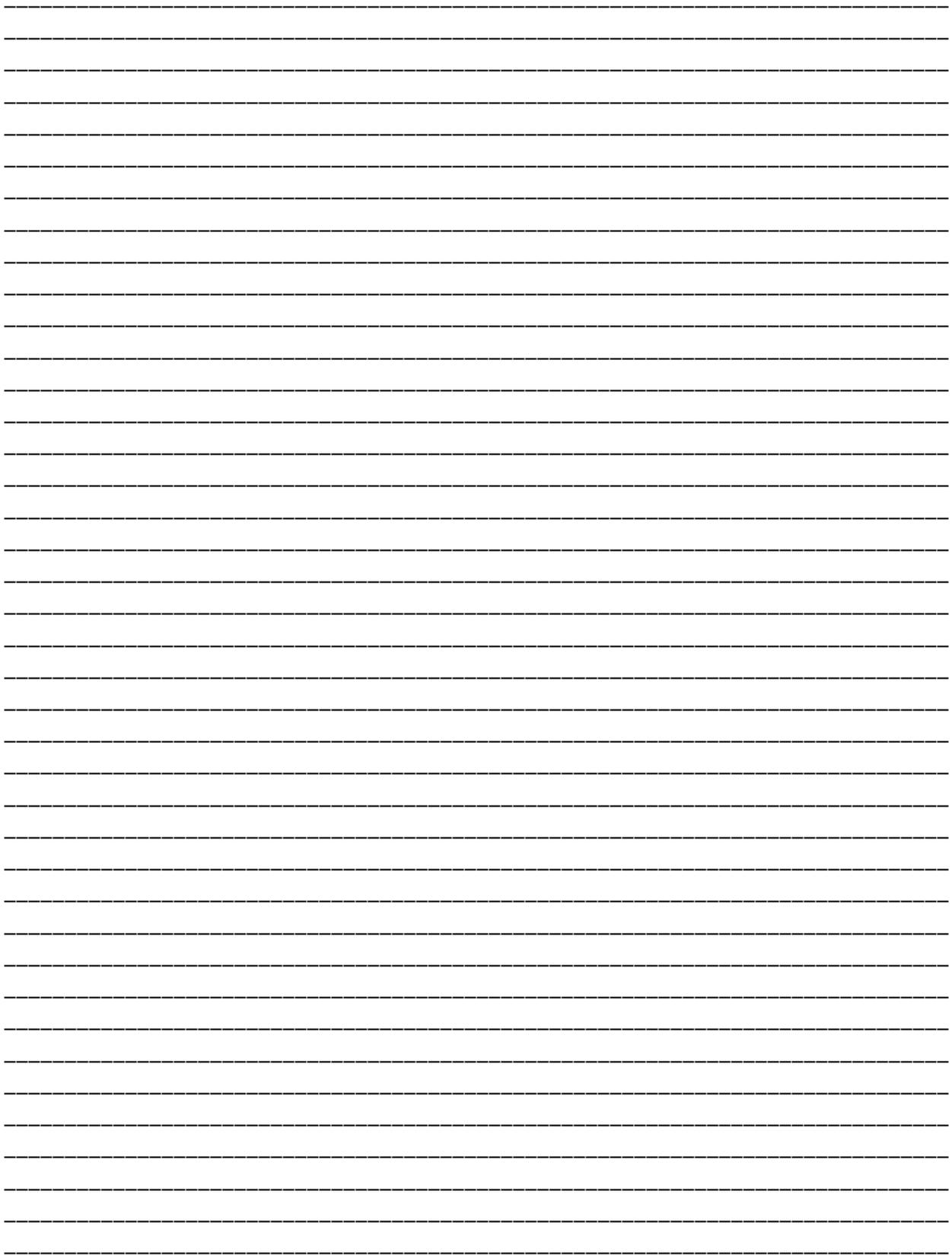
WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE GIANTS IN YOUR LIFE?

ARE YOU LIKE SAUL? IT'S TOO BIG – THERE IS NO HOPE OF VICTORY.

ARE YOU LIKE DAVID? IT'S TOO BIG – I CAN'T MISS.

ARE YOU REMAINING FAITHFUL IN THE PRIVATE STRUGGLES THAT YOU MIGHT BE FRUITFUL IN THE PUBLIC BATTLES? THAT ALL MAY KNOW THERE IS A GOD?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US? (ROMANS 8:37)



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**Saturday Morning Session III – Hannah's Prayer  
I Samuel 2:1-10**

- A. Examples of Singing Hymns at times of Sacrifice:
- 1) Before going to the garden to be arrested, Jesus sang a hymn with His disciples – Matthew 26:30 – And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
  - 2) Paul and Silas sang hymns to the Lord after humiliated and beaten – Acts 16:20-26. – They had been beaten with rods. Many stripes were laid on them. They were put in prison and their feet were fastened in the stocks. At midnight, they were praying and singing hymns to God “and the prisoners were listening to them.”
  - 3) Apostles rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer shame for His name – Acts 5:41.- So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
- B. Hannah never mentions Samuel in her prayer.
- C. Hannah's Prayer (song) along with David's song in 2 Samuel 22 and Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55 tell of:
- 1) God's grace to the undeserving.
  - 2) God's victory over the enemy.
  - 3) The amazing wonderful way God turns things upside down to accomplish His purpose.
- D. Hannah rejoices both in the Lord and His salvation.

Horn symbolizes strength.

Horn exalted means: to receive new strength from God and receive special help from Him during a time of crisis.

The Lord will make us more than conquerors through Him.

2 Timothy 4:18 – And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Hebrews 13:6 – So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

Isaiah 41:10 – Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

E. Hannah acknowledged God as holy.

God's holiness is a holiness of perfection - perfect being, perfect essence, perfect character, perfect behavior.

F. Hannah declared that there is no one besides the Lord.

He is the only living and true God, the only God who could have answered her prayer.

I Timothy 2:5 – For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus

Psalms 86:10 – For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

G. Hannah praised the Lord for being the Rock.

Psalms 18:31 – For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?

Psalms 62:2 – He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

H. Hannah describes the Lord as the God of Knowledge. He knows and weighs human deeds.

I. Hannah rejoices because her holy God is a just judge of our actions.

Proverbs 16:2 – All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.

Proverbs 24:12 – Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

J. Hannah gives examples of how the Lord has the power to turn things upside down.

He alone is Sovereign and does as He wills for His good pleasure.

- 1) God's judgment reverses the strong and the weak
- 2) God's judgment reverses the full and the hungry
- 3) God's judgment reverses the barren woman and the fruitful one.

Areas of Barrenness:

How to be Fruitful:

Not able to have children

Adopting children  
Caring for other people's children  
Mentoring teenagers or younger women

Lonely and no friends

Becoming involved in ministry  
Being friendly to someone she sees alone  
Taking a change on friendship

Unloved

Remember that Jesus loves her  
Show His love to others

Lack of Respect from others

Acknowledge who she is in Jesus  
She is a daughter of the King  
Treat others with respect

Unemployed

Choose to take a lower paying job for a time  
Volunteer so as not to be idle

Lack of finances (or in debt)

Set up a budget  
Be willing to humble herself and share her  
poor choices with another believer who can  
give her wise advice  
Tithing

See no fruit in your ministry

Pray  
If God leads you to stay in that ministry,  
then persevere – the fruit will come in His  
time and His way (not own strength)

Poor health

Find ways to reach out to others  
Spend time in God's Word  
Sing to the Lord (Praise)  
Listen to Christian Radio Programs

To be fruitful, it takes prayer, time in God's Word, and some action (however small).

- 4) God's judgment reverses death and life, sickness and health
- 5) God's judgment reverses the poor and rich, poverty and wealth
- 6) God's judgment reverses the humble and the exalted

Warning: If we walk in pride, committing sin and evil, God can reverse our lives, turn them upside down. However, if we follow God, trusting Him to deliver, protect and guide us, God can reverse our lives and turn them right side up.

The ways of the world are contrary to the ways of God.

K. Hannah acknowledges God's protection and control

- 1) The Lord has established the earth and sustains the world.
- 2) He guards His people, however the wicked walk in spiritual darkness.
- 3) God is long-suffering but those who resist Him will ultimately be judged.

Psalm 30:5 – For His anger is but for a moment; His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

L. Hannah brings it all back to the Messiah - Jesus.

M. Hannah leaves us a legacy and example of:

- 1) How to respond to the stresses of life by running to the Lord of Hosts.
- 2) Dependence on God and recognition of our helplessness.
- 3) Prayer with an eternal focus
- 4) Sacrifice for a grander purpose
- 5) Proper Response to being misunderstood or condemned
- 6) Joy and Peace even when you don't know if you will receive your heart's desire.
- 7) Faithfulness to our promises to God no matter how difficult it might be to keep our promise
- 8) Worship because we know our God
- 9) Hope in the promise of the Messiah who will deliver us forever.

Hannah's example to us: She put God first, she believed in prayer, she kept her vows and she gave God all the glory.

Happy Ending: Hannah had gone to the Lord of Hosts with a broken heart. The Lord gave her peace because she prayed and submitted to His will. Samuel is born. Hannah kept her vow and gave him to the Lord. The Lord gave her 3 more sons and 2 daughters. She didn't know the end when she made her vow, yet she walked away from her meeting with God with joy restored. She ends in Thanksgiving to God, pointing us to our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

### Session III – Table Discussion Questions

What are your favorite hymns and why?

When do you sing hymns and/or praise choruses or listen to Christian music?

Are there particular times that God's music speaks to you?

Can you think of any times when your life was changed from barren to fruitful? How did that happen? How did you become fruitful?

Do you think our lives can be right side up and upside down at the same time?  
(right side up = in right relationship with God)  
(upside down = circumstances not what you want)

What is the best way to handle upside down circumstances?

What one thing particularly touched your heart during our retreat that you will be able to take home?