

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**1 Samuel 1:4-28**

These questions are for the **May 11, 2025** message, **"The God Who Hears."** Please read the sermon passage together to set the context for our study.

### Passage Outline

**In our moments of despair, God hears us when we cry out to Him.**

1. The Problem: a childless woman in distress (4-8)
2. Hannah cries out to the "Lord of Hosts" (9-11)
3. The Complication (12-19a)
4. God remembers Hannah and weeping gives way to worship (19b-20)
5. Hannah finds strength in God's grace (21-28)

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. 1 Samuel 1:4-8 makes it clear that God had "closed" Hannah's womb, leaving her unable to bear children. And in her day, when society placed a high value on a wife's ability to provide an heir for her husband, an inability to have children was a significant setback. Have you experienced any such setbacks in your life that were beyond your control, and that hurt your sense of self-worth or your sense of your own ability to "measure up" to the expectations of others? How did you respond to the challenge? How did you respond to God?
2. Hannah's husband had another wife named Peninnah who was able to have children. And she was cruel to Hannah, ridiculing her to "provoke" her and to "irritate her," according to verses 6 and 7 of 1 Samuel 1. When you are struggling with challenges in life, what role do the words and actions of others play in that struggle? Have you experienced discouragement at the hands of others who said or did insensitive things in the face of your struggles? Has that shaped the way you respond to the struggles of others? And if so, how?
3. We are told that Hannah cried out to God in her time of need. When you find yourself in a difficult situation, and you decide to ask God for help, how do you approach him? Do you simply acknowledge that you are unable to help yourself as you ask Him to provide for you? Do you make a promise to give something to God in exchange for his help? Do you ask for specific help, or do you keep your requests general and leave the specifics to God? Share with your group how you tend to approach God in difficult times?
4. 1 Samuel 1:18 tells us that, once Hannah had entrusted God with her request, and she had received some encouragement from the temple priest, she was able to return home encouraged and peaceful. Do you find it easy or difficult to trust that God will work for your good when you ask? How can you encourage others in your group who may be struggling, to trust in the character of God, even before you see the hand of God at work?