

Life Group Material – or notes for your own study

Great Prayers of the Bible

Week beginning 4/11/2018

Hannah's prayers of desperation & praise

1 Samuel 1:1-20, 2:1-10

Session

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Sharing our stories

Have you ever prayed any desperate prayers? What was your story?
How easy did you find it to pray and to encounter God in those difficult times?

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20 through together and then have a couple of minutes' silence, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

- Which character in the story do you most relate to and why?
- How do we react in times of disappointment and when things go wrong for us?
- How did Hannah cope with her disappointment and what can we learn from her example (v10-11, 15-16, 19)?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- How do you think this trial and story changed Hannah? And how have the difficult parts of our own stories changed us?
- How do we cope when prayers are still not answered the way we are hoping?

Prayer and response

Share any tough situations that you, or people known to you, are currently facing and pray for each other.

Give people space to be honest with God – either out loud or preferably in the silence... to truly 'pour out their souls' to God in anguish...

You might like to light a candle in your midst as you do this to remind you that in the struggles, in the mess, in the difficulties that God is there... and that he cares.

After such agony, Hannah's prayer was answered and she went on to have a son Samuel, whom she 'handed over to God' and took to live in the temple.

- What an example... for Hannah to give her precious child to the Lord in this way. How easy do we find to give our most precious, longed for things (including our children if we have them) to the Lord? What might that mean for us?

Read Hannah's second prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10

- What strikes you and resonates with you as you read it? What do we find encouraging and what questions does it raise?
- What does this prayer teach us about God?
- How readily do we thank and praise God for what he has done?

Respond with thanks

As you close, spend time thanking God for his provision, for his answered prayers and that He is a God who we can be honest with and 'pour out our soul' to.