

# The Birth of Samuel - 1 Samuel 1:1-20

*Topics:* Emotions, Grief, Husbands, Isolation, Marriage, Prayer, Vows

## Open It

1. In our society what stigma, if any, do you think is attached to being a childless woman? Why?
- \* 2. Why is it difficult to be faced with constant reminders of things we wish we had but do not?

## Explore It

3. What are the names of the family members described in 1 Samuel 1? (1:1-2)
- \* 4. What was a primary difference between the two wives of Elkanah? (1:2)
5. Where did the family go yearly to worship God? (1:3)
6. Who were the priests at this time? (1:3)
7. How did the husband treat Hannah on the occasion of feasts? Why? (1:5, 8)
8. How was Hannah treated? (1:6)
9. Who observed Hannah in the temple? (1:9, 13)
- \* 10. What was Hannah's emotional state when the feasting ended? (1:10)
11. What was Hannah's vow before the Lord? (1:11)
12. What did Eli assume about Hannah? (1:13-14)
13. How did Hannah explain her behavior? (1:15-16)
14. What was Eli's response to Hannah's situation? (1:17)
- \* 15. How did Hannah's mood change after she had prayed? (1:18)
16. How was Hannah's prayer answered? (1:19-20)

## Get It

17. Why does competition tend to arise between family members?
18. What reactions, good and bad, can we have to cruel taunts?
- \* 19. Why did Hannah's demeanor change so dramatically after she prayed?
20. What other responses to her predicament could Hannah have chosen?
- \* 21. Why is it important to take our requests to God?
22. In what ways do we try to ease the pain of someone's obvious loss or lack?
23. Why does the account in 1 Samuel say that God "remembered" Hannah?
24. What was Eli the priest's role in the life of this family?

## Apply It

- \* 25. What deep desire do you need to turn into earnest prayer and leave before God?
26. What ongoing trial or grief can you commit to God in prayer?