

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Something New

The Birth of Samuel – I Samuel 1

Discussion Points

December 12, 2021

Read/Reflect

1. Read I Samuel 1. (It's best to read the whole chapter)
What part of the story stands out (or appeals) to you the most?
2. What analogies could you make from this story to Israel's situation later in history (e.g. Hannah asks for a son, Israel asks for a king, Hannah is worthy, Israel is unworthy).
What kind of commentary does the story suggest about God's people?

Interesting!

Compare the beginning of the book of Ruth with the beginning of I Samuel:

- Both begin with the story of a family in desperate situations
- In both, the husbands come from Ephraim, near Bethlehem

Explore

3. When you really want something and it doesn't happen, or it takes too long, how do you react?

<input type="checkbox"/> Mope and complain to others	<input type="checkbox"/> Step away from God & get angry
<input type="checkbox"/> Treat myself to something else	<input type="checkbox"/> Get busy to make it happen
<input type="checkbox"/> Draw closer to God & wait	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
4. Is there a time when you faced a situation that you thought was unchangeable? What was/is that like?
 - Can you identify with any of the feelings that Hannah (and Elkannah) had?
 - What action did you take?
 - What did you hear from God in the midst of the disappointment?
5. Where in your life, or in other situations, have you witnessed God's transforming power?

Pray

- ✝ Pray for those situations in which you (or others) are waiting on God, longing for his transforming power.
- ✝ Pray for a spirit of hope in the midst of whatever desperateness you or others are experiencing (in the manner of Romans 5:3-5).

