

Great Women of the Bible



The Specific Prayer

*Can you think of something specific that you
prayed for and then received from God?
What was it?*

*Can you think of something specific that you
now desire from God? What is it? What is
your **specific prayer**?*

Hannah

In our lesson this week, we meet *Hannah*. Hannah was one of the wives of Elkanah, who was a Zuphite. Elkanah had two wives. His other wife was named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none because she was *barren*—she could have no children because her womb was closed.

In this classic love triangle, Peninnah used Hannah's infertility against her. She taunted her romantic rival until Hannah was in tears. One day, Hannah had reached her limit, she cried out to the Lord specifically asking Him to do the humanly impossible task of opening her womb and giving her a son. Hannah asked God specifically to give her a child and then more specifically, *she asked for a male child*.

In Hannah's story, we learn how our God is willing and able to grant our **specific requests**. We also learn how we are to use our blessings to give back to Him and further His mission on Earth.

Hannah



Romantic Rivals

Hannah



Peninnah



Hannah Hurts

- I Samuel 1: 1-8
 - Hannah is hurting and her rival, Peninnah, seems to be enjoying it. *Life Lesson: We should never delight in another person's difficulties.*
 - Hannah seems to be grieving because of her situation. Often times, we, too, have situations that cause us to be *downhearted*. It is during those times, that instead of relying upon ourselves, we should rely on the Lord.

Verse 5 says, *“The Lord had closed her womb...”*

*What does this statement tell us?
Why do you think the Lord closed her womb?
Is there a bigger message in this for us?*

Could it be that the Lord had closed Hannah's womb for a purpose? Maybe he closed her womb so he could miraculously open it...

Life Lesson: Sometimes we endure pain and hardship so that the Lord can show Himself in our lives by doing what is humanly impossible! God gets the glory when he turns a bad set of circumstances into something good. Bad situations are sometimes needed so that God can reveal Himself in power and glory!

Romantic Rivals and the Man in the Middle

Hannah



Elkanah



Peninnah



Hannah Prays

- I Samuel 1: 9-18
 - Hannah **prays** and asks God **specifically** for a son.
 - Hannah makes a vow that if her request is granted, that she will, in turn, give her son back to God all the days of his life.
 - Verse 18 tells us that shortly after Hannah prays, she feels some relief from her pain. What does this scripture tell us about Hannah?
 - Matthew 9: 29
 - After Hannah prays about her situation, she gives it over to God. She seems to feel a sense of relief because she has faith that God will intervene and grant her request.

Hannah Pours Out Her Soul to the Lord



In Verse 15 Hannah says “I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.” Have you ever experienced *pouring out your soul* to the Lord? How is that different than just praying? What kind of emotions is Hannah experiencing?

Hannah is Blessed

- I Samuel 1: 19-20, 27
 - Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, are able to conceive. Hannah gives birth to a son and names him Samuel.
 - **Hannah keeps her promise** and dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.



Verse 19 says that the Lord remembered Hannah. Why do you think He remembered her?

Is there something we can do to increase the chances of the Lord remembering us when we have made a request of Him?



*Hannah asked for a child—and she was
given children! 1 Samuel 2: 21*

*God is able to give us even more than we
ask for!*

Ephesians 3:20

Hannah's son, Samuel grows and becomes a great prophet. He becomes a *Great Man of God*.



What do you believe is Hannah's legacy? What does her life experience teach us as Christians today?



Hannah's Legacy

- **Pray specifically** and ask God for your heart's desire
- Be unselfish and when making your request, make God a promise that you will **use His blessing for something good**
- **God is willing and able** to grant our specific requests
- Sometimes we face bad situations so that God can show **His mighty power** when He fixes the situation for us!
- **Allow room for God's will.** Trust that if He does not grant your request in the way you want Him to, that it is ultimately in your best interest
- **Be obedient and have faith.** God is more likely to remember our requests when we *trust and obey Him*.
- **Follow through on the promises you make to God**
- **God can give us even more than we ask of Him!**