

Westwood Baptist Church Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for February 19, 2023

Sermon Notes

Hannah's Prayer: A Heart Transformed by Worship

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah's prayer serves as a summary, and overview of the story we see in the book of Samuel. In these ten verses, we hear all the main themes of the book. "There is none like the Lord" (v2) will be demonstrated repeatedly in Samuel. "...for not by might shall a man prevail" (v9) – it's not human appearance or power that counts, but God's power that raises up and sustains God's people in 1 and 2 Samuel. "The Lord ... brings low and he exalts" (v 7) will be seen in all the book's major characters. God is the one who strengthens - "he will give strength to his king" (v10) is what we see happen in David's life, and what we see ultimately in God's eternal "anointed", Christ the Lord.

Hannah's prayer (her song) is part of a bigger story - the story of God's provision of a Savior. Echoes of Hannah's song will be heard again and again throughout God's redemptive story, which is the story of reversals, reclamations, redemption, and salvation.

When Hannah stopped listening to the voices around her (and in her own head), when she "got up" and came to the place of worship, when she set her heart on God and got into his presence in worship, her heart changed, her perspective changed, her life changed. Her singular focus on God changed her. True worship that centers on the one true God transforms our hearts,

God is Incomparable. He alone is holy, the only source of strength and salvation.

God is Omniscient. His knowledge is complete, He alone is the perfect judge.

God is Omnipotent. He reverses human position and demolishes human power.

God is Sovereign. He alone is the creator, sustainer and ruler of all things.

Application:

Behold your God, church! (Is. 40:9-ff) Make Him your primary focus (Ps 27:4). True worship that centers on the one true God transforms our hearts.

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."
- Colossians 3:16a

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
Coordinator
Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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FEBRUARY

22 Evangelism Class-Session 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
24 Membership Class @ 6:00 p.m.

MARCH

2 Life Choices' Banquet @ 6:00 p.m.
8 Evangelism Class-Session 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
12 Daylight Saving Time begins @ 1:00 a.m.
15 Member's Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
22 Evangelism Class-Session 4 @ 6:30 p.m.
23 Blood Drive (FLC) 10:30a.m.-3:00p.m.
25 Women's Ministry Event @ 10:00 a.m.