



Hannah

Before Hannah became the mother of Samuel, Hannah was the barren, yet beloved wife of Elkanah. Her husband's more fertile wife, Penninah, persistently persecuted Hannah because of her barrenness (likely kindled by jealousy over their shared husband's affection). We never read of Hannah "sicking up for herself." We never glimpse Hannah returning Penninah's verbal abuse.

Where Penninah was persistent in her persecution of Hannah, Hannah was persistent in her prayers to God. Through the years of infertility and mistreatment by her sister wife, Hannah consistently turns to the Lord her God with her deep grief and sorrow. And though she prayed for *years* with no visible answer to her prayers, Hannah did not quit seeking His blessing for a baby.

On her knees, Hannah is the quiet, female counterpart of Jacob's more physical wrestling with the angel to obtain a blessing for himself (see Genesis 32). Her faith and trust in God's eventual answer to her prayers through *years* of what looked like no answer at all serves as a colossal encouragement to us when we don't yet see His fingerprints in answer to our own prayers.

Hannah is a living example to us of persistence in prayer, especially through the longterm.

1. List all the “facts” that you know about Hannah from today’s reading.

Day 1

Read 1 Samuel 1 & 2:1-26

2. Research & describe the world in which Hannah lived. What was it like to be a barren woman in Hannah’s day?

1. Write a character sketch of Hannah based on what is revealed about her life, her choices and her actions from today's readings. (Think: character qualities)

Day 2

Reread

1 Samuel 1 & 2:1-26

2. What can you infer about Hannah's thoughts or beliefs based on her actions described in today's readings?

1. What pivotal point(s) in Hannah's life do you see?
What was her response to each?

Day 3

Reread

1 Samuel 1 & 2:1-26

2. What can we learn from Hannah's life or her example? Be specific.

1. How do you relate to Hannah or elements from her story?

Day 4

Reread

1 Samuel 1 & 2:1-26

2. What is God showing you through Hannah's testimony?

1. What overall theme(s) do you notice in Hannah's life?

2. From the above list, pick the one theme God is impressing upon you and research what His Word has to say on that specific topic.

Day 5

Reread

1 Samuel 1 & 2:1-26

3. Write a third person introduction to Hannah below based on your personal application from number 2.