

7. Elkanah and Hannah provide a model for Christian parenting.

- Hannah and Elkanah knew it was better to dedicate Samuel to God than to tell him to pursue worldly success and keep him close to home.
- The duty of Christian parents is to raise children who are faithful and fruitful for Christ in their generation. That is more important than raising children whose first priority is to be a success in the eyes of the world.
- Hannah poured the Word of God into Samuel for the 3 to 4 years she had him in her home. We are to pour the Word of God into the lives of our children for the 18 to 19 years we have before they leave our home.

8. Conclusion

- **Is God calling you to release your children from the dreams you have for their financial success? Is God asking you to dedicate your children to be used for Christ's kingdom in any way He sees fit?**

Life Group Questions

1. What did you learn from this study you did not know?
2. How does God use families to be a light in a dark world?
3. What strategies can parents use to raise their children so the top priority in their life is loving Jesus and leading in the church, not just pursuing worldly success?
4. **Read Deuteronomy 11:16-19.** What do these verses teach us about raising children to follow Jesus?
5. What enabled Hannah to give up young Samuel so he would live in the house of the Lord even when he was a child? How can parents unwittingly discourage their children from pursuing bold devotion to God?
6. **Read Numbers 30:2, Deuteronomy 23:21-23, Psalm 15:1-4.** Elkanah and Hannah both made vows they kept. What do these verses teach us about making promises before God?
7. **Read Matthew 5:33-37.** Jesus seems to say we should never make a vow or take an oath. If you know the biblical background behind these verses, what kind of oaths was Jesus prohibiting?
8. We opened the service in a time of prayer asking for God to guide CrossWinds in this critical time. Take time in your Life Group to pray for the same needs: Full Funding of the Capital Campaign, Approval of Blue Prints for Spencer, Worship Pastor Search, Administrative Assistant Search, Sickness For Many In Church, and Our Mission To Reach People With Jesus.

1 Samuel 1:21-28 – Dedicating Our Children To God

January 16, 2022

1. Review — The Birth Of Samuel.

2. Elkanah and Hannah were a god-fearing couple.

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.”

1 Samuel 1:21–22 (ESV)

- Elkanah made sure he attended church with his wife and children.
- Elkanah was a man who kept his promises.

If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. Numbers 30:2 (ESV)

If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.
Deuteronomy 23:21–23 (ESV)

- Marriage is a vow made before God.

- Oaths of office are vows made before God.

3. Hannah taught Samuel about God when he was young.

- Jewish women weaned their children at the age of 3, sometimes as late as 4.
- A mother's job is not to just physically raise her children but to spiritually train her children.

4. Elkanah supported his wife and encouraged her spiritual commitments.

Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. 1 Samuel 1:23 (ESV)

- Samuel grew up in a home where his parents had spiritual unity.
- A husband should encourage his wife's efforts to grow Christ's kingdom.

5. The sacrifice of Hannah's worship shows the gratitude of Hannah's heart.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. 1 Samuel 1:24 (ESV)

- The greater our gratitude to God, the more joyfully we will sacrifice in worship to God.

6. Hannah was able to give Samuel to the Lord because she knew it was the Lord who gave Samuel to her.

Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there. 1 Samuel 1:25–28 (ESV)

- If we see every good thing in our life as a gift from God, that helps us to give back to God what he has given to us.

- God loves to give to those who give to Him.

Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord. 1 Samuel 2:21 (ESV)

"...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38 (ESV)