

# 1:1-2:11

Read 1:1-8. What are some of the good things Hannah has?

What is it she wants most of all?

What is significant about the children of other barren women mentioned in the bible?  
(Gen. 11:30; Gen. 25:20-21,26; Gen. 29:31-30:24; Judges 13; Luke 1:5-25)

What does this tell us about the way God can and does work? How is this true for us?

Where does Hannah turn in her desperation? V11

What is so stunning about her prayer? What does she want for her son if God grants her one?

What do you find refreshing or encouraging about Hannah's prayer? v11

Read 1:21-28. What is significant about the name Hannah gives her son?

What does Hannah's prayer tell us about God?

When are we tempted to substitute human gimmicks for dependence on God?

How does our view of God affect our relationship with him and our prayer life to him?

# 2:12-3:21

Note the differences between Hannah's son and the sons of Eli.

What is the overriding problem of what is happening in 2:12-17?

Where does the hope come from in this passage?

What does this show us about the way God works?

How do we see this to be true in our lives?

Note the contrasts between:

- 19 & 22
- 20 & 23-25
- 21a & 25b
- 21b & 26

What does the judgement of Eli's sons say about the importance of God's word to God?

What is the good news in 2:35?

What does 3:1 tell us about the state of Israel? What is the good news?

How might God be silent today considering we have his word written for us?

How can we ensure that his word does not become silent in our lives, our church and our community?

It is a sobering thought that starvation may not mean a lack of food, but lacking of appetite for God's Word. Is your hunger for The Word as keen as it always was?

## 4:1-22

It is interesting to note that as we come to chapter 4 we don't hear anything more of Samuel until we get to chapter 8. The focus has shifted onto the enemies of Israel and the old regime, looking towards a new leadership. God is endeavouring to teach Israel some lessons in trusting him.

What pressure is Israel attempting to put on God in 4:1-5?

How might we be guilty of trying to force God's hand at times?

What was the effect of the Ark coming into camp? (vv.4-5) What is the expected outcome at this point?

What is the difference between Israel's plans and God's plans? vv 7-11

It seems here that not only were Israel defeated but the God of Israel was defeated. What is God showing his people through the capture of the Ark?

How is God, who seems to be dishonoured in the capture of the Ark, actually honoured in v12-22? (cf 2:25 & 2:30-34)

In 4:22 Ichabod's mum almost gets it right. Had God's glory departed because the Ark was captured or was the Ark captured because God's glory had already departed? Discuss.

What is the warning here for us as individuals and a church? What steps do we put in place to avoid this?

## 5:1-7:1

How is it that God can act in judgment and grace at the same time?

How do we balance the fact that God is totally self sufficient and chooses to use us in his service?

What is the difference between knowing God and being familiar with God?

It seems here that God is the defeated God. How does 5:1-5 show this to be false?

What do these verses show us about God and his need for people?

In what ways are we guilty of thinking or acting like God needs us to act?

What does 5:6-12 show us about God and who rules? How?

Why did the 70 men die? 6:19. What does this say about the way we need to approach God?

How might we be lazy in our approach/worship to God? What can we do about this?

What are some common terms people use to describe their relationship with God that shows they don't really understand who he is?

## 7:2-17

If repentance requires action on our behalf, can the same be said of faith?

What does Samuel say genuine repentance looks like? V3. What would superficial repentance look like? What is the warning of superficial repentance?

What is the difference in attitude of Israel in 7:7-8 compared with 4:3-7?

What is the difference in the result?

How might we as individuals and a church be guilty of living by our own 'cleverness'? What is the danger of this position?

What personal helps do we tend to rely on over sole trust in God? What does this do to our trust in God?

Verse 12 states, "thus far the Lord has helped us". Think back through the history of Israel and list the ways God has helped them. Do this for your own life as well.

How might this help in difficult times?

What is the significance of remembering?

Why are we constantly reminded of the way God has acted in the past in the bible?

## 8:1-22

What are some things that you don't like others to see about the way you live and act?

What is wrong with the elders request in 8:4-5?

What is at the heart of the request?

What warning are the people given in 10-18, in regard to what this king will be like?

What is the peoples' response to this? What are some things that we want or allow to rule over us? What is the Bible's warning about these things? Why do we ignore these warnings?

Can you think of times that God has said no to your prayers and you have discovered later why that was a good answer?

When are you most tempted to want to be like other people? Or when are you most tempted to not want to be different to everyone else?

Israel hears God's wisdom but doesn't want to respond to it even after hearing the consequences of her actions. How is our world similar?

How are we similar?

# 9:1-10:16

What things impress you most in other people?

How is Saul described in vv 1-2?

Outline the story/steps in vv3-14. Did you see the hand of God? Or is this merely an ordinary day in the life of a farmers kid?

Now re-read 9:15-27. Can you see God's hand working? What does this tell us about the way God works?

How have you seen God work through the ordinary and extraordinary things in life?

What signs are given that Saul is the chosen one of God in 10:1-7?

Why is it irreverent to always expect God to reveal his plans/ways to us? What should we be doing instead?

We don't often look past the present in our discerning of things. How does God's Word (esp. this passage) help us to see more deeply into things?

How should you seek such things in your prayer life?

How have you been encouraged so far in your study of 1 Samuel by:

- The way God works?
- The situations he uses?
- The people he uses?

What do these things tell us about the way God works and the people he uses?

# 11:1-15

What life situations have given or do give you hope for the future?

What hopes might Israel have by the beginning of chapter 11?

What is Nahash's intention? How is his arrogance shown in this?

Where did Israel get her strength/will to fight Nahash?

Israel may well be tempted to say, "we told you we needed a king." But where does her victory really come from? Vv6-8

What does this chapter tell us about relying on God? What was Israel's position before the Spirit of God came on Saul?

Read John 15:5-6. How might this relate to 1 Samuel 11?

What ways have we been helped out by God yet patted ourselves on the back instead of giving thanks to God?

When are you tempted to rely on human strength, wisdom, understanding, guidance rather than God's?