

# Small Group Study Guide Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Submission Finds Life

Date: 05/14/2023



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## Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NIV

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-2:10

- The chiasmic structure means that the haughty and proud will be brought low, and the low will be raised to a seat of honor. Have you ever been a Peninnah to a Hannah either by your words, actions, or thoughts? How can you prevent playing the role of the one who is haughty? How can you cultivate a heart of compassion and understanding toward others?
- Hannah was deeply distressed and cried out to the Lord in her barrenness. Is there anything in your life you are currently struggling with? Are you bringing these matters to the Lord in prayer? What are some practical ways we can express our emotions and needs to God?
- Hannah struggled with her bareness year after year. Are there times when you need to trust God in the darkness? Year after year? How long do we need to wait for resolution on the issues we pray about? Will all of our prayers be answered? How do you process prayers that are not answered in the way you want them to be?
- How can we support and encourage others who are going through significant struggles, just as Elkanah supported Hannah? Leaders: reinforce the value of **Hospitality** and affirm that a Small Group is a safe environment to share and to be supported by your church family. Seek feedback from the group on how you’re doing in this area.



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- Eli, the priest, initially misjudged Hannah's prayer and accused her of being drunk. How can you avoid making quick judgments about others based on appearances or limited information? Do you see every person as made in the image of God or through a culturally-imposed filter?
- Hannah's prayer was answered, but the road to get there was through pain and suffering. When you look back on your life, have you seen God work in a similar way? If yes, share your story. Have you ever considered giving thanks to God for your difficult situations? What does Scripture say about the reason we have trials? How can you cultivate a spirit of gratitude and trust in God's provision, even when things are not going how you want or expect?
- Elkanah is faithful to the Lord during a time when the leadership has gone wayward. It's easy to compromise when others are doing the same. Are there any environments/settings in your life where you find it difficult to remain faithful to the Lord because no one else is? Are you looking more like Elkanah or the culture around you?
- Scripture affirms that children are a gift from the Lord. How can we apply this perspective in our own lives and cultivate an attitude of gratitude and stewardship toward the children in our families and communities? What responsibility do we have to the parents in our church family who dedicate children and to the children who are dedicated?
- Hannah's prayer highlights God's ability to reverse circumstances and bless those who seek Him. It expresses her personal joy and also recognizes the broader purpose of God's work. How can we practically live out that our trust is in God? What can you do this week to actively participate in advancing God's Kingdom in your spheres of influence?



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