

Group/Individual Study

Series: "This is Us" - Hannah

Passages: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 7/16

1. Read 1 Samuel 1. Sometimes the Bible is *prescriptive*, telling us what *should be*. Other times the Bible is *descriptive*, simply describing what was -- in all its human messiness. What seems to be going on in this family? What was Hannah's life like as the passage begins?
2. In our series, "This is Us," we've seen how God uses frail and ordinary people to do uncommon things in the world. Additionally, most of these frail people came from dysfunctional families -- but that didn't stop God from using them. How does this impact your belief that God can use you, mess and all?
3. Both Elkanah and Eli see Hannah in her suffering. What did they do that was helpful? What did they do that was unhelpful? What have you found to be most helpful when you are standing with someone who is in great pain and anguish? Who has been most helpful to you when you were in deep pain? How did they do it?
4. Eli at first misunderstood Hannah's earnestness of prayer and thought she was drunk. What was it about how Hannah was praying might have given him that impression? Have you ever found postures and positions of your body that are helpful in prayer? (on your knees? Lying down? Out loud? Certain locations/settings? Other?)
5. Sometimes the depth of hurt and anguish in our lives makes our approach to God raw and rough around the edges. Are there needs in your life you want to start coming to God in Hannah-like earnestness?
6. Hannah's travail to have a child wound up blessing many people and, indeed, an entire nation. What do you know about who her son, Samuel, became and what he did? How do you imagine the fervency of his mother's faith and reliance on God might have affected him?