

## 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Small group discussion notes:

As all small groups are meeting on Zoom at the moment, and as therefore meetings are time-limited, these discussion notes are being kept brief!

### Verses 1-8

1. What do we learn about the three main characters in this story: Elkanah; Hannah; Peninnah?
  - a. How would you describe each one?
  - b. How 'true to life' do you find their story?
2. What are the causes of Hannah's unhappiness? How is her state described in verse 10? (Different translations use different words to describe her distress).

### Verses 9-17

3. Hannah translates her bitterness into prayer.
  - a. Why do you think she was able to do this? What does this tell us of Hannah's relationship with God?
  - b. What other effects can bitterness and disappointment have on our relationship with God?
  - c. What advice would you give to a young Christian who is feeling deeply disappointed and/or being bullied by others, in the way that Hannah was?
4. How would you describe the character of Hannah's prayer? What does this tell us about prayer and also about God?
5. What one thing are you taking away from this opening section of 1 Samuel?