

## 1 Samuel 1:21- 2:11

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 21-28

1. Hannah had made a vow in verse 11: now she intends to keep it. What did it cost her to keep her vow? How hard do you think it might have been after three years with her son at home, to give him to Eli's care in Shiloh? Might she have been tempted to hold him back do you think?

In our baptism we ourselves make a vow: to turn from self and sin and fully yield our lives to God. Unlike Hannah, we don't give our child to God, we give ourselves to God. What does it cost *us* to keep our vow? Are we ever tempted to hold something back? Any examples?

2. In what ways do you think verses 27 & 28 might form a 'mini-manifesto' for Christian parenting?

### Verses 2:1-11

3. Hannah's great prayer is an outburst of thankfulness – even though she is about to be separated from her much-loved son Samuel, she is full of joy (1). What accounts for Hannah's joy, despite being soon to be parted from her son? Is there anything that we can learn about being thankful, despite our circumstances?
4. Read Mary's prayer, offered when she was bearing Jesus. You can find it in Luke 1:46-55. What similarities can you see between the two women's prayers?

In his talk on our Sunday video David explained that both prayers are a mixture of the *personal* (gratitude of Hannah for Samuel and Mary for Jesus) and the *prophetic*, looking ahead to what would happen in the earth as a result of their sons' births.

Hannah's Samuel would anoint the first kings of Israel, and Mary's Jesus would be the ultimate King of Israel and of all nations of the world. So, what do we learn about God's programme for his kings from these two prophetic prayers. What sort of kingdoms would they be establishing?

Disciples of Jesus are told to 'seek first the kingdom of God'. Bearing in mind what you have discussed about God's kingdom, what does this mean for us today, in very practical terms?