

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Mother's Day*

These questions are for the **May 8, 2022**, sermon, "Remember Me." Please read the sermon passage (1 Samuel 1:1-2) together out loud.

### Passage Outline

#### **THE MOTHER WITH TRUE FAITH REMAINS LOYAL TO GOD . . .**

1. Even when hardships feel overwhelming. (1-8)
  - a. Hannah (means, 'grace') seems to be waiting for grace most of her life.
    - i. Relational tensions (frequent storms and thunder) lasted year after year.
    - ii. Unfulfilled desires (for a child) lasted year after year.
      1. The Lord, for his own purposes had, 'closed her womb.'
      2. She continues to trust the Lord even while she waited.
  - b. Her rival, Peninnah, continually provoked her, without relief.
2. Even when devotion is misinterpreted. (9-20)
  - a. She prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.
    - i. NOTE: these two things are not mutually exclusive.
    - ii. Great prayer and hope can often be accompanied by deep sorrow as we wait.
  - b. Eli (the priest) notes the emotion and intensity and accuses Hannah of being drunk.
    - i. Hannah pours out her heart to the LORD, not negotiating, but vowing.
    - ii. Hannah maintains dignity and objectivity as she refutes Eli's false accusation.
3. Even when release seems premature. (21-28)
  - a. God grants Hannah a beautiful son, Samuel ("God has heard").
  - b. Hannah dedicates the child to the service of the Lord while he is still very young.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Sometimes, without explanation, God allows faithful people to endure long seasons of relational tensions and/or unfulfilled desires, or both. In Hannah's miserable conditions, she continues to worship, pursue the Lord and pray (she 'remains loyal'). In what ways are you enduring tension or waiting? In what ways are you joyfully loyal to the Lord?
2. Based on #1, above: Do you have someone in your life that view as a rival? How does Hannah ("grace") season your relationship with that person? How can we pray for you?
3. Based on #2, above: Hannah prayed and wept bitterly. These two things are not mutually exclusive, as if prayers are not weeping, or weepers have lost hope. What is the relationship between prayer and grieving in your life today?
4. Based on #3, above: Releasing our loved ones, especially children, always seems to come too soon. How are you learning to release your children to the care of the Lord? How are you doing emotionally? How is your prayer life? Is your relationship with that adult child healthy?