

Questions for 1 Samuel Chapters 1-7

Chapters 1-2

Was it right for Elkanah to show more love to Hannah than to Peninnah? What problems arose from him veering off of God's original design for marriage? Gently compare like issues in current times.

Women who are not able to conceive (like Hannah) are understandably sensitive about it. What are things that we can say, or should perhaps avoid saying to those who are unable to have children?

How was Hannah's fervent prayer request to God answered? What must we do to avoid desperation when God's timing does not seem to align with our own?

What can we learn from Hannah honoring God's sovereignty through her poem/song? (2: 1-10)

Discuss Eli being rewarded essentially with an "adopted" son in Samuel (even though he failed in raising his own sons)

Chapters 3-4

How can we discern when the Lord is speaking to us?

Share how the ark of the covenant is akin to the Holy Spirit we "carry" in our hearts. (4:5-11)

Chapters 5-6

Can we compare the returning of the ark to the Israelites, with their exodus from Egypt?

Chapter 7

What is our responsibility to others who may be faltering in faith? How can we help them commit to the Lord thus avoiding potential sin and the consequences resulting from it?

Ebenzer means "stone of help." Samuel set up the stone to commemorate what God had done - given the Israelites a victory over the Philistines. Can you think of a time when God gave you a spiritual victory? How can you commemorate that?