



CORNERSTONE
christian church

1 Samuel 1 Sermon Questions | May 13, 2017

Gathering:

1. This weekend was Mothers' Day. What does that day look like in your house? What do you do and is it something you look forward to or something you dread?
2. Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day are parallel holidays but they feel very different? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Looking at the Text

Pregnancy is an everyday miracle. God is creating a new life, a person who has never existed before, but he is doing it through a woman. It is the ultimate example of someone cooperating with God and to that degree there is a message in the various "mother narratives" of the Bible for all people male or female. This week we looked at 1 Samuel 1. This is one of the places in scripture where God uses a woman's pregnancy to signal a new era in his plan.

1. How many miraculous or notable pregnancies in scripture can you name?

Read 1 Samuel 1: 1-8. – Hannah' painful situation

1. The opening verses describe Samuel's family. What can we learn about Elkanah from these passages? How does his family contrast with the last verses of the book of Judges?
2. What kind of pain do you think Hannah is experiencing as a woman with no children? What might be a comparable situation in our day? What kinds of pressures are on women in our culture?

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18 – Hannah's cry

1. How does the author describe Hannah's attitude in prayer? What did she look like and what did Eli think?
2. Hanna's vow that no razor be used on her son's head is probably a reference to the Nazirite vow described in Numbers 6. Read Numbers 6:1-8. How does that passage describe the person taking the vow, what words are used? Notice that Hannah is dedicating her son to the Lord for his whole life. How is this different from what is described in Numbers 6:13-14.
3. Pastor Fred and Debbie Provencher talked about the difference between Hannah's abandonment to God's will and our desire for control over everything regarding children. What do you remember from that conversation and what resonated with you?
4. What does it say about Eli that he thought Hannah was drunk? How

does he eventually encourage her and how does that affect Hannah?

Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28 – Hannah fulfills her vow

1. God responds quickly to Hannah's prayers. When Elkanah returns to Shiloh for the next holiday Hannah stays home and explains her plan for Samuel. By law Elkanah could have nullified his wife's vow. What might have been his temptation to do that? What does it say about him that he did not?
2. After a few years Hannah brings the boy "young as we was" to Shiloh and leave him with the priests. Can you think of anything in your experience that could approximate what Hannah was feeling at that moment?
3. All parents are called to let go of their children and allow God to work in them. Where are you in this process? What are the challenges?
4. In a sense God is always seeking to do a new thing in each of us, male or female, single or married, parent or not. He wants to grow something in us and bless the world through us. Can you relate to this? Is there something you think God wants to do in you or through you that will take your cooperation?