1 Samuel Lesson 1 (2020)

**THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL**

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Key Verse: 1:10-11

**Open it:**

1. In our society, what stigma, if any, do you think is attached to being a childless woman? Why?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-8. How is Elkanah’s family described? (1-2; Jdg. 21:25; 1 Chr. 1:25-27) What were the agonies of this family and how were these exposed in their annual worship at Shiloh? (3-8) What does “the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb” imply? Why was Hannah not satisfied with Elkanah’s love? (8)
2. Read verses 9-11. What was Hannah’s condition? What did she do and how was she different from Peninnah? In her prayer, about what was she mainly concerned? (11a) For what did she ask God? What did she vow to God, and what does this reveal about her?
3. Read verses 12-20. How is Hannah’s prayer described? (12-13a, 15-16) Why did she devote herself to prayer like this? (Ps. 18:6) Who was Eli, how did he misunderstand, and why? (9. 13b-14) How did she answer respectfully, and how did he bless her? (15-17) After prayer, how was she different? (18; 1 Jn. 5:14-15) How did God answer her? (19-20)
4. Read verses 21-28. How did Elkanah continue to serve God and give a good influence on Hannah? (21-23) What was her plan? (22) After being childless for so long, how might Hannah have felt toward Samuel? After weaning him, what did she do? (24-25) What did she say to Eli? (26-28) Om what way did she express her faith? (see also 2:11) How did God continue to bless her? (20-21)
5. Read 2:1-11. In her prayer, what was Hannah’s source of joy? (1) Through her struggles what did she came to learn about God and his sovereignty? (2-9) What was her vision? (10)

**Apply it:**

1. What deep desire do you need to turn into earnest prayer and leave for God? What ongoing trial or grief can you commit to God in prayer?