

Women of the Bible:

Hannah

First: Start with the facts from each passage:

Second: What would her life have been like at this time

Third: What traits do we discover about her

Fourth: How did God work through this person, even after their mistake(s)

Fifth: What inspiration or lessons can be learned?

I Samuel 1:1,2

I Samuel 1:3-8

I Samuel 1:9-20

I Samuel 1:21-28

I Samuel 2:1-11

I Samuel 2:18-21

Lessons for Our Lives:

DID YOU NOTICE:

Hannah means: gracious, graciousness (forms of Hannah include: Ann, Anne, or Anna_

I Samuel 1:1,2 Hannah is mentioned first (primary wife), but loses that distinction because of barrenness. Her identity is based on her marriage and then lowered because of having no children.

I Samuel 1:3-8 Her lower status is emphasized by Peninah. Elkanah's attempts to comfort, result in "de-legitimizing" her sorrow. Contrast her response to barrenness, with Sarah and Rachel's responses. She does not attempt to have someone else bear a child for her (that had not worked out well for Sarah or Rachel).

I Samuel 1:9-20 Hannah went to the Lord and presented her request. Hannah is willing to give up the joy of raising her son, if God would simply allow her to bear one. Her faith in God is seen by the absence of sorrow following her entreaty. Her son's name, Samuel, means "heard of God" and would be a constant reminder of her prayer and God's blessing.

I Samuel 1:21-28 Hannah kept her vow and Elkanah honored it. She takes the initiative in offering the sacrifice and dealing with Eli regarding the fulfillment of her vow.

I Samuel 2:1-11 The prayer of Hannah is a personal prayer that glorifies God for His blessings upon individuals. God's control of an individual's life is identified. His power and wisdom exceeds that of man's.

I Samuel 2:18-21 The title of "mother" is used to distinguish who brought him a robe yearly. Five additional children are given to her; while Samuel goes on to serve as a prophet, judge and one who would ordain kings.