

Bible Text New International Version	Who are the people involved and what is the situation?	What traits of God are displayed in this story? What are the traits of the people?	In what ways do you see yourself in this story? How is God inviting you to respond?
<p>1 Samuel 1:1-28</p> <p>The Birth of Samuel</p> <p>1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite^a from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.</p> <p>³ Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷ This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. ⁸ Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"</p> <p>⁹ Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. ¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. 1 Samuel 1:1 - See Septuagint and 1 Chron. 6:26-27,33-35; or <i>from Ramathaim Zuphim.</i></p>			

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<p>1 Samuel 1:1-28 - continued</p> <p>¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”</p> <p>¹² As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”</p> <p>¹⁵ “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”</p> <p>¹⁷ Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”</p> <p>¹⁸ She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.</p> <p>¹⁹ Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, ^b saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.” <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>b. 1 Samuel 1:20 - Samuel sounds like the Hebrew for <i>heard by God</i>.</p>			

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<p>1 Samuel 1:1-28 - <i>continued</i> Hannah Dedicates Samuel</p> <p>²¹ When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow, ²² Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always.”^[a]</p> <p>²³ “Do what seems best to you,” her husband Elkanah told her. “Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his^[a] word.” So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.</p> <p>²⁴ After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull,^[a] an ephah^[b] of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. ²⁵ When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, ²⁶ and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸ So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.</p> <p>c. 1 Samuel 1:22 - Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls <i>always. I have dedicated him as a Nazirite—all the days of his life.</i>”</p> <p>d. 1 Samuel 1:23 - Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint and Syriac <i>your</i></p> <p>e. 1 Samuel 1:24 - ead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint and Syriac; Masoretic Text <i>with three bulls</i></p> <p>f. 1 Samuel 1:24 - That is, probably about 36 pounds or about 16 kilograms.</p>			

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<p>1 Samuel 2:1-11 Hannah's Prayer</p> <p>2 Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn^g is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.</p> <p>2 “There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.</p> <p>3 “Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.</p> <p>4 “The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.</p> <p>5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.</p> <p>6 “The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.</p> <p>7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.</p> <p>8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. “For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; on them he has set the world. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>g. 1 Samuel 2:1 - <i>Horn</i> here symbolizes strength; also in verse 10.</p>			

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<p>1 Samuel 2:1-11 - <i>continued</i></p> <p>⁹ He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; ¹⁰ those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”</p> <p>¹¹ Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.</p>			

Reflections

Hannah's honoring her vow to the Lord came at great cost to her—to give up her only son. Tell of a time when you bargained with the Lord and/or surrendered something very precious to God.

What feels out of control in your life? How are you handling this? Are your actions working or might there be a better way?

