

Hannah's Prayer and God's Big Answer

Sometimes the deepest prayers are the ones nobody hears but God. When Hannah poured out her pain and longing before God, the people around her did not understand. But God understood and answered her prayer. Studying Hannah's sorrow, prayer, and song of praise in the opening chapters of 1 Samuel reveals God's character, helps us understand where to find God, and what he wants us to do with our pain. Together, we'll also see how Hannah's sorrow and private prayer become part of God's public plan for his people.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What are your deepest prayers?
- Where are the places or situations in which you expect to find God?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Hannah's Prayer and God's Big Answer](#)

READ [1 Samuel 1:1-2:10](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why do you think we are tempted to “put on a happy faith” instead of bringing our pain and sorrow into worship with us?
- In segment 2, host Darrell Delaney said, “God is not intimidated by big emotions in prayers.” Do your prayers show that you believe this? Why or why not?
- While reflecting on God's response to Hannah's prayer, host Scott Hoezee said, “God moves; God acts; and God keeps God's word.” In which other stories in the Bible do you see God moving, acting, and keeping his word?
- What does it mean to you that God hears you, even if others don't hear or don't understand?
- Why does it matter that Hannah moved beyond what God did for her to singing about who he has always been: justice- and redemption-minded? Why is this good for us to remember in our own prayers and worship?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 51:16-17](#), [Matthew 5:1-12](#), [Luke 1:46-55](#), [1 Peter 5:5-11](#)

CONCLUSION

As they closed the episode, Scott and Darrell identified three simple truths from this study of Hannah's prayer and God's big answer in [1 Samuel 1:1-2:10](#):

1. Bring God your real pain.
2. Trust that God sees what others miss.
3. God often starts his big redemptive work in small, even hidden, places.

Close your time by reflecting on where you see further evidence of these three truths in your own life. If you feel led, write your own prayer like Hannah's in [1 Samuel 2:1-10](#) in response.

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