June 14, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Since God searches our hearts and minds, He sees and hears every prayer, even the ones that never escape our lips. His all-knowing nature makes it possible for us to pray with full confidence that He will hear and answer.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
God, fill our hearts with peace as we pour our heart out to You.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.
(1 Samuel 1:13 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", February 1, 2014)

Summer Series: The Testimony of Faithful Witnesses

NEXT WEEK

UNIT 1: Faithful Witnesses Model God's Fidelity

Jonathan and David, Resolute Friends

1Sam 18:1-4; 20:16-17, 32-34, 42; 2Sam 1:26-27; 21:7

Hannah, the Faithful Supplicant
1 Samuel 1:9-20; 25b

Lesson Background and Introduction

The events of today's text occurred late in the period of the Judges, perhaps around 1100 BC. In 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Elkanah is introduced with two wives: Peninnah and Hannah. Elkanah may have been an important individual of the priestly Levitical tribe (1 Chronicles 6:23). Although Elkanah loved Hannah very much, she was unable to bear children (1 Samuel 1:8). Peninnah mocked Hannah, perhaps jealous that Elkanah gave her a greater share of their family's annual sacrifice (1:5-6). Even though Hannah was childless, Elkanah gave her a "double portion," the amount typically given to a firstborn son and heir (1:5; see Deuteronomy 21:15-17).

Scripture often frames the ability to conceive children as a capacity under the sole discretion of God (Genesis 29:31; 30:22; 1 Samuel 1:6). This is a perfectly reasonable perspective in an age before medical interventions. Just like the fertility of crops and the success of a harvest, the blessing of bearing children was attributed to God (Psalm 127:3-5). But this left many ancient women in a difficult social position. The anxiety and sorrow of infertility became a special place of God's intervention, often signaling the coming of a remarkable child: Isaac (Genesis 21:1-2); Jacob and Esau (25:21); Joseph (30:23-24); Samson (Judges 13:2-3); and, even later, John the Baptist (Luke 1:13, 24-25). As we examine Hannah's story, we see God's attention turned toward her. The child of her penitent prayers will be a leader for a leaderless generation.

Key Verse: 1 Sam 1:20

20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord."

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Hannah's Grief and Faithful Vow (1 Sam 1:9-11)

Grief because of downcast soul (9-10)

Downcast because of being childless, but full of faith (Rom 4:18-21)
Downcast but full of hope (Ps 42:5-6)
Downcast but calling on One who is higher (Ps 61:1-2)
Downcast but calling on our refuge and portion (Ps 142:2-5)
Downcast but knowing that even Jesus got overwhelmed with sorrow (Mark 14:33-34)
Downcast but trusting in God (Ps 56:3)

Vow of dedication to God (11)

Vow that must be kept (Eccles 5:4)
Vow that God requires fulfillment (Deut 23:21)
Vow that must be obeyed even when it hurts (Ps 15:2-4)
Vow that is not rashly given (Prov 20:25)
Vow that must not be broken (Num 30:1-2)

Eli's Concern and Faithful Blessing (1 Sam 1:12-18)

Concern about ineffective prayer (12-13)

Ineffective because of being filled with pride (Luke 18:10-14)
Ineffective because of doing to be seen and heard by others (Luke 20:47)
Ineffective because of thinking we know how to pray (Rom 8:26)
Ineffective because of broken relationships (1 Peter 3:7)
Ineffective because of disobedience (Prov 28:9)

Concern about drunkenness (14-16)

Concern because the wickedness of drunkenness (Prov 23:29-35)
Concern because it inhabits being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)
Concern because drunkenness causes poor judgment (Prov 23:20-21)
Concern because not all who seem to be drunk are not drunk (Acts 2:15)

Blessing of answered prayer (17-18)

Answered prayers because God's eyes are on the righteous (Ps 34:15)
Answered prayers because God promises to answer even before speaking (Isa 65:24)
Answered prayers because God promises it for those who ask and seek (Matt 7:7-8)
Answered prayers because of obedience (1 John 3:21-22)
Answered prayer through being righteous (James 5:16-18)

God's Faithful Provision (1 Sam 1:19-20, 25)

Provision of remembrance (19)

God remembers those who fear Him (Eccl 8:12)
God remembers the suffering of His saints (Ps 56:8)
God remembers us to bless us (Ps 115:12)
God remembers us because of His covenants (Ps 106:45)
God remembers us because of His promises (Mal 3:16-18)

Provision of child (20, 25)

Children are a reward from God (Ps 127:3-5)
Children are a blessing from God (Ps 128:3-4)
Children are a sigh and symbol of God's provision (Isa 8:18)
Children are a crown to the aged (Prov 17:6)
Children who have been promised by God (Luke 1:13)
Children to provide a family for those who fear God (Exodus 1:21)

