

PLEA AND PRAISE (HANNAH)



1 Samuel 1:1–28

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

1 Samuel 1:27–28

MEMORY VERSE

“I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. 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. **1 Samuel 1:27–28**

Much of what our children perceive about God, they perceive in us, first. If this seems a big responsibility, consider that your children will be more inclined to take their cares and requests to the Lord in prayer each day if they find you approachable in the same way. When they find that you are someone with whom they can share their joys, sorrows, requests, and dreams, it’s not a stretch to realize that God can, and will, be someone with whom they can share.

God has set up prayer as a way to communicate with Him. He nurtures and directs our lives through the faithfulness of prayer. Read 1 Samuel 1:1–28. Hannah had dealt with her barrenness to the point of despair.

She went to the Lord and pleaded with Him for a son. In faithfulness, God responded by giving Hannah the desire of her heart. God must have been pleased with Hannah’s request, longing to end her misery, knowing that her request would lead to faithfulness, and ultimately, the blessing of Israel.

Teens need to know that their parents depend upon the Lord in and through their prayer lives. They need for us to be transparent about our need to go to God, encouraging them to do the same. When we pattern a nurturing relationship with our children, helping them to see that we have to depend on the Lord, they, too, will turn to Him in that kind of relationship, learning that He is faithful.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Family members rate themselves on a scale of 1–10, on how approachable they are for others to share their hopes, requests, dreams, sorrows, and joys. The family answers the question: **How approachable do you think God is?**

Explore . . .

First, family members share in reading 1 Samuel 1:1–28. Then, the family discusses: **What do these verses say about how desperate Hannah was? Where did Hannah turn for comfort and help? How did God respond to Hannah’s request? How did Hannah respond to God’s faithfulness?**

Transform . . .

The family answers the question: **How often do we relate to God in prayer? Why is our prayer life important to us? Why is it important to God? What do we learn from Hannah’s prayer to God?**

Pray that your family members will develop a healthy prayer life in which they can share with God anything that is happening in life and depend on His faithfulness.