

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of January 7, 2018

**This Week's Focus:** *Hannah's Story*

**This Week's Text:** 1 Samuel 1:1-20

"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.  
"Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill;  
He treasures up his bright designs, and works His sov'reign will.  
"Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds you so much dread  
are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head."

**From *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* by William Cowper**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What is the historical context of 1 Samuel? What was the state of Israel and why did they want and need a king? Reference Judges 21:25. Where does this book fit within the grand narrative of God's redemptive story?
- Who are the main characters we meet at the beginning of 1 Samuel? The text describes Elkanah as having two wives. How do we reconcile this with other passages of Scripture such as Genesis 2:20-24 and Matthew 19:4-6 which describe God-ordained marriage as the union of one man and one woman? Discuss how we should use the principle of *prescription* and *description* as we study and interpret historical narrative.
- Take time to consider how God loves and uses ordinary people like you and me to fulfill his sovereign plans. Does it both astonish and comfort you?
- What distressed Hannah to the degree that she "wept and would not eat"? What problems did she face in her family and in her culture as a result of her situation? What are some things our culture highly prizes and uses as the measurement of success, happiness, meaning and purpose? Of these examples, which are you prone to idolize?

- Like Hannah, do you bring your concerns, "anxiety, and vexation" before the LORD of hosts? What does this title for God ("LORD of hosts") teach us about Him?
- How do we know that Hannah's vow wasn't simply a bargaining chip to get what she wanted? In the end, what was Hannah's true life-giving, all satisfying treasure that remedied her deep sorrow? Have you experienced confidence, hope, and joy while amidst life's trials that can only come with having a relationship with the sovereign God of the universe? Reference Romans 8:28-39.
- How does this passage point to the real hero of the story: Jesus Christ, the King of Kings?