

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 14, 2018

This Week's Focus: *The Dedication of Samuel*

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 1:21-2:11

"God is significance and stability. If a loving, all-powerful God is in someone's life, the approval of others becomes inconsequential. If a loving, all-powerful God is in someone's life, her future is in capable hands. And if a loving, all-powerful God is in someone's life, she can endure the harshest struggles because He is enough." **J.D. Greear**

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 the nation want and need a king? Reference Judges 21:25. Where does this book fit within the grand narrative of God's redemptive story?
- What remedied Hannah's deep sorrow and gave her joy, even before she bore her son? What does it mean that the LORD "remembered" Hannah? How did Elkanah respond to Hannah's vow to dedicate their son Samuel to the LORD "all the days of his life"?
- What motivated Hannah and Elkanah to fulfill their commitments/vows and to give generous sacrificial gifts? Reference 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Numbers 15:8-10. What does this passage teach us about God?
- Compare and contrast the secular worldview and the Christian worldview as they relate to vows and commitments. Example: the covenant of marriage.
- Name some examples of God's gifts to us that we are called to responsibly steward. What are some ways you can be a better steward of God's gifts?
- In what ways are parents responsible for dedicating ("giving back") their children to the Lord?
- What are the attributes of God that Hannah rehearses in her song of praise? Reference verses 1-3. Do you regularly contemplate the nature of God and find your comfort, security, hope, and joy in Him?

- Do you share Hannah's astonishment about the way God fulfills his will in the world? Reference verses 4-8. Discuss how a proper understanding of humanity, God, and the gospel as revealed in God's Word effects our perception of reality (worldview).
- Why does Hannah praise God's anointed king, when Israel up to that point had no history of a human king? Reference verses 9-10. How did God use Hannah and Samuel to fulfill his promise to bring salvation through a king? Compare Hannah's song with Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55. Like Hannah and Mary, have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ, the King of kings?