

APPLICATION

- Who is the next generation you can reach out to and help follow God? What can you do for them to know God more this week?
- How can you pray for the next generation? How will you apply what we discussed today?
- How can you be a good example to the next generation?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His sovereign plan to work in each generation.
- Pray that you will be a blessing and an example to the next generation. Ask God to help you have faith and commitment like Hannah.
- Pray for the next generation. Ask God that your children, relatives, friends, and students will serve God wholeheartedly like Samuel.



Today

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines provided for taking notes.

WARM-UP

- What was your day like? What happened?
- Tell us about one of the youngest people you get along with. What do you like about him/her?
- What is one recent trend among young people that you either appreciate or don't understand? Why do you think this is a trend?



WORD

27"I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. *28*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

Hannah was a woman of faith who took her greatest problem—her barrenness—to the Lord. And God’s answer to Hannah was not just for her benefit. God answered Hannah in His sovereignty and foresight with a child who would lead God’s people back to Him and pave the way for the birth of the Messiah. In this lesson, we will look at three ways that Hannah valued the next generation and fulfilled God’s purpose for her life.

1 Pray for the next generation.

*10*In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. . . . *15*"I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. *16*. . . I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

1 SAMUEL 1:10,15,16

Hannah was deeply troubled because she didn’t have children. Her solution? She took her concern and heartache to the Lord. She asked God for a son and He answered her prayer. In the same way, we can bring our concerns and heartaches for the next generation to God. We should ask God and pray for the next generation because they are a blessing and reward from God (Psalm 127:3). How can we pray for the next generation? What can we pray for?

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2 Dedicate the next generation to the Lord.

And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." **1 SAMUEL 1:11**

Though Hannah asked God for a son, she wanted him to fulfill God’s purpose for his life—not hers. She committed to raise Samuel in the ways of the Lord. Therefore, our role in raising up the next generation entrusted to our care (children, nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, students) is to lead them to God and help them follow Him. We can set up the next generation to succeed by raising them to fear God and seek Him. This involves a sacrifice on our part to invest in and commit to the next generation. What did Hannah have to give up to follow through on her promise to dedicate her son to the Lord?

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3 Lead the next generation to worship God.

26. . . and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. *27*I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. *28*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 1:26-28**

After Hannah gave Samuel to the Lord, the Bible says that Samuel worshiped the Lord. Hannah’s heart to follow God and worship Him (1 Samuel 1:18,19) helped lead Samuel to follow God and worship Him, too. We can lead the next generation to worship God as we worship Him with them. Why is our example so important for the next generation to see and eventually follow?

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