



FIVE GREAT PRAYERS FOR LENT

WHAT TO EXPECT

St. Augustine wrote, "true, whole prayer is nothing but love." Why then do so many people neglect to pray? Have we misunderstood the purpose of prayer? Are we unsure what to do when we pray? (I think of Ricky Bobby saying "I'm not sure what to do with my hands.") If only we entered into prayer in the way God desires, we might find our own experience in agreement with St. Augustine.

Throughout the season of Lent (March 2-April 14), we are called to deepen our prayer life.

For some, this may mean beginning a habit of daily prayer, setting aside time each day to share our hopes, joys, fears, and frustrations with God. For others, this may mean exploring new prayer practices or devoting yourself to a particular subject that the Lord leads you to pray for.

Join us on Sunday mornings and in Life Group for a series of studies on biblical prayers that are faithful for us to follow in our own prayer lives.



WHAT IS COMING UP?

Women's Ministry:

- Women's Brunch
- Play Dates for Moms with Preschoolers
- New Women's Mid-Week Bible Study - Encountering God

Men's Ministry:

- More Opportunities Coming Soon



SCRIPTURE

For this week's curriculum, read 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11. Pay careful attention to Hannah's prayers in both chapters.



CONTEXT

According to Chuck Swindoll, "The events that happen in 1 Samuel took place over a period of about 110 years, stretching from the closing days of the judges, when Samuel was born (ca. 1120 BC) through the death of Saul (1011 BC). We see the birth of Samuel, his call from God and subsequent prophetic ministry, the rise and fall of King Saul, and the anointing and maturity of young David.

"First Samuel is set in the land of Israel, where the Hebrews invaded and settled (see Joshua). Numerous other peoples continued to dwell alongside Israel, often disrupting the peace and encouraging the Israelites to stray from their faith."



ANSWER AS A GROUP

Opening Questions

- 1) On a scale of 1-10 (10 being highest), how satisfied are you with your prayer life?
- 2) Who taught you to pray? Who models prayer well in your life right now? How do they model prayer well?

After Reading 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

- 3) What troubled Hannah? Did it seem to bother Elkanah?
- 4) Have you been in a situation similar to theirs? How did you handle your circumstances? Did you find God working in your situation? Why do you say that?
- 5) In chapter 1, what caught your attention in Hannah's prayer? Have you prayed like that before? If so, what vows have you made? If not, how can you cultivate a faith like hers?
- 6) Pastor Justin observed that Hannah prayed prayers of Deep Desire (Chapter 1) and Faithful Fulfillment (Chapter 2). How do those types of prayers challenge you? What have you learned from Hannah and her vulnerability in prayer?
- 7) Is there anything else in these chapters that pique your interest, challenge you, or that stands out to you?

Challenge

- 8) Over the next week, take an inventory of what you pray about. Do you find yourself praying prayers of Deep Desire and Faithful Fulfillment? What can you do to grow in this type of vulnerability and praise? Consider sharing your findings at the next Life Group meeting or with someone special.