

LIFE Group Sermon Discussion Questions

Mother's Day

May 13, 2012

"The Heartbreak of Infertility"

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Summary

Infertility affects over 7 million women between the ages of 15-44 nationwide (12%) and several women in our church, both past and present. Having never dealt with this issue before, I felt led to take it on this year. I saw my daughter and son-in-law struggle for years with this problem, until God graciously answered their prayers. And yet, many prayers for biological children go unanswered. What are couples to do? What should the church do? There are women in our church even now wrestling with this issue. My goal is to make us aware of the issue, offer support and understanding for those hurting, and to tie the barrenness theme – a prominent one in the Bible – to the gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Hannah's problem affected her relationship with God? Her relationship with her husband?
2. Describe Hannah's emotional state? What was the range of emotions she was feeling?
3. Why would Penninah give Hannah such a hard time?
4. How would you describe Elkanah's handling of his wife's problem? Supportive? Non-supportive?
5. What words would you use to describe Hannah's prayer?
6. Why do you think God answered her prayer?
7. How can we support and encourage couples having difficulty having children?
8. How does the barrenness theme play out in the Bible? What does barrenness often symbolize?
9. How does the gospel deal with the problem of barrenness (both physical and spiritual barrenness)?
10. Bonus: take a look at Hannah's prayer of thanks in Chapter 2. You get a window into Hannah's deep walk with God and how her pain likely helped develop the depth of her knowledge of God. (Mary used this prayer when she conceived in Luke 1.)