

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, we invite you into this time and ask you to soften our hearts as we open your Word. Help us, like Hannah, to pour out our souls honestly before you and to trust your timing and your goodness, even in our pain. Show us where we've been trying to carry what we should be surrendering, and give us the courage to take a clear next step of obedience this week. May our conversation honor you and shape us to look more like Jesus.

ICE BREAKER

What's one funny or "relatable chaos" moment from your home life recently—maybe a morning that went off the rails, a kid meltdown, or a work-from-home fail—that you can laugh about now?

SERMON OVERVIEW



[SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP](#)



[SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP](#)

This week, we celebrate Mother's Day at Northview as Pastor CJ introduces us to an amazing mother and Biblical figure, Hannah, a woman whose story of pain, prayer, and provision speaks directly to our modern struggles. We encounter a mother who faced the deepest kind of heartache—the inability to have children in a culture where her worth was measured by motherhood. Yet what makes Hannah's story so transformative is not her pain, but how she managed it. We're challenged to consider a profound truth: pain is inevitable in this life, but it doesn't have to be detrimental. The difference lies in whether we suppress our pain or surrender it to God. Hannah teaches us that prayer is where we pour out what we cannot carry so God can pour in what we cannot produce. Her raw, honest, weeping prayers weren't polished performances—they were genuine cries from a broken heart. And God responded. When we finally receive what we've been praying for, the real test begins—will we steward God's provision with open hands or grip it with entitlement? Her story shows us that maturity happens when our gratitude outweighs our grip.

READ SCRIPTURE

1 SAMUEL 1, 2:1-11

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) As Pastor CJ highlighted Hannah's pain longing for a child, he stated that pain is an inevitable part of life, and can certainly be detrimental. However, in God's goodness, He often redeems our pain and hurt, making them oddly beneficial. What is one difficult situation you have faced in your life that the Lord worked out to make you stronger, more resilient, and more faithful?
- 2) What unprocessed pain might you be carrying that is leaking out in unhealthy ways rather than being poured out to God in prayer?
- 3) Hannah's greatest accomplishment was not just what she did but who she raised. How does this perspective shift your understanding of legacy and faithfulness in your current season of life?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) It's often difficult for pain to be used by the Lord if it isn't first processed and surrendered to Him. Pain that isn't dealt with and worked through can lead to bitterness and resentment. How does Hannah's story illustrate the move from suppressing pain to surrendering pain and pouring it out before God in prayer?

5) Hannah made a serious vow to God concerning her future child. When we consider the difference between a simple promise and a covenant—with its emphasis on long-term commitment and stewardship—how does this deepen our understanding of Hannah's vow to give her son back to the Lord "for all the days of his life"?

6) How does the concept that God loves your children more than you do bring either comfort or tension to your understanding of parenting or relationships?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) The sermon teaches that prayer is "pouring out what you can't carry so God can pour in what you can't produce." This week, what specific change could you make in how you handle stress or pain so that you're intentionally pouring it out to God, instead of letting it leak out in detrimental or unhealthy ways?

8) Hannah's journey moves from pain, to prayer, to provision, and finally to faithful stewardship of what God entrusted to her. Where do you see yourself in that progression right now (pain, prayer, provision, or stewardship)? And how might our group practically support one another in taking the next step in that journey?

9) The sermon highlights that God responds to sincerity, not sophistication, and that vulnerability with God is safe even when vulnerability with people has been painful. How can we, as a group, cultivate a "house of prayer" culture where people feel safe to be honest and vulnerable before God and each other?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please answer this statement:
I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

The Global 6K - Grab your group and join us for our second annual Global 6K for Water on Saturday, May 16th at 8 am at the Carmel Campus. Why 6K? Because that's the average distance women and kids walk every day for water. We're completing 6K, so they don't have to. Each registration brings clean water to a child, and you'll receive a race bib with their photo!