

KINGDOM MEN | WOMEN

GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you study the Scriptures and deepen your relationship with God. Use this guide by yourself or with others.

To find a group, visit brookwoodchurch.org/groups.

Message Title: *Don't Waste the Wait*

October 18, 2026

OPEN

If new people have joined your group, take time to introduce yourselves to each other.

1. What's a lesson you learned the hard way?
2. What's one belief about the future that shapes how you live in the present?

PRAY

Father, we invite You to lead our conversation today. Give us wisdom and understanding as we read Scripture. Help us see what You want us to see and hear what You want to speak into our lives. Give us humble hearts that are willing to learn, grow and even be challenged. Help us to be honest with You and with each other. Give us the grace to listen well, to speak with kindness, and to make this a place where people feel safe sharing their questions, struggles, and experiences. Protect the unity of this group. When we see things differently, help us respond with patience, humility and love.

Most of all, don't let this simply be a time where we gain more information. Use Your Word to shape us and change us. Show each of us how You are inviting us to respond, and give us the courage to live out what You teach us.

We surrender this time to You and trust You with whatever You want to accomplish in us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

For years Hannah was obsessed with her longings for a child. Through her struggle, she awakened to a deeper longing inside—the longing for God's glory. She was a true kingdom builder. We learn from Hannah how God uses struggle to reveal more of himself to us and to enlist us in his cause.

Carolyn Custis James, *The Lost Women of the Bible: The Women We Thought We Knew*

READ 1 SAMUEL 1:1-20

1. The opening family tree tells us that Elkanah was the fifth generation of a strong family. As in most ancient cultures, it was expected for a man to have a son. Elkanah had two wives. Who were they, and what do you learn about them in verse 2?
2. During the time of worship and sacrifice, why did Elkanah give a double portion of meat to Hannah?

Peninnah rescued the family line with her repeated success in bearing children, but at the same time became a bitter intrusion into what might have been one of the Bible's greatest love stories. With the birth of Peninnah's first son, her value soared while Hannah's standing in the community plummeted. Hannah may have been first in Elkanah's heart, but Peninnah was unquestionably first in the eyes of the community. Not only did Hanna suffer the indignity of sharing her husband with another woman, she had to live in the shadow of Peninnah's repeated triumphs in childbearing. Sadly, this was only the beginning of Hannah's sufferings.

Carolyn Custis James

3. What was the relationship like between Peninnah and Hannah?
4. What words and phrases, particularly in verses 8-16, describe how Hannah was feeling?
5. Can you relate to Hannah's desperation? Explain.
6. What vow did Hannah make, and why is that significant?
7. Describe a personal longing you've had for something right and good that became the main focus in your relationship with God. How did it affect your relationship with Him when He didn't answer as you had hoped?
8. How can we experience God's peace even when we don't yet have the answers we're seeking?
9. Discuss the turnaround in Hannah's attitude that led her from desperation to have a child to her willingness to give her child to God. What drove Hannah to make such a sacrifice?

10. Verse 20 says, ***So in the course of time*** Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son... (some translations say, *It came about in due time*). What's your internal response to the idea that God gets to decide what will happen and when it will happen?
11. What reason did Hannah give Elkanah for not going with him to the annual sacrifice? How did he respond?
12. What do you need to release into the Lord's hands? How hard is that for you? Why?

...Hannah kept her word. She took her little son to Shiloh, where she led him in sacrifice and worship. Samuel heard his mother pray with words that rival the best of David's psalms—words that stayed with him for the rest of his life. And then she left him there under the care and tutelage of Eli the priest and in the company of Eli's two sons, whom we learn in the very next sentence "were wicked men" (1 Samuel 2:12). Samuel's new environment was hair-raising from any mother's perspective. Yet Hannah fulfilled her vow and entrusted her little son to God. Although it's difficult for us to fathom how she did it, Hannah returned home to Ramah, childless once again, but this time with a heart at rest and (one would hope) a speechless Peninnah.

Carolyn Custis James

READ 1 SAMUEL 2:1-11

13. Based on Hannah's prayer, what did Hannah learn about God that helps us understand the way He works in the world and in our personal lives?
14. Compare Hannah's prayers in chapters 1 and 2. What changed, and what remained the same?
15. Describe a time when God answered a prayer that moved you from desperation to worship—from expressing a need to a place of gratitude.
16. What have you learned about God during times of struggle, and how does knowing Him strengthen your desire to share His love with others?
17. Looking at the story of Hannah, I'm learning that *a Kingdom Woman* is...

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Reflect on your heart's response to Hannah's story. What thoughts and emotions are surfacing? How will this move you toward God this week? Ask God what He wants you to know, then spend a few minutes quietly listening for Him to speak.

PRAYER

Share what you sensed God saying and pray for each other.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Memorizing Scripture helps us carry the words of God with us all the time, wherever we go. His Word gives light and direction and ultimately has the power to change us and deepen our relationship with Him. Here's a good verse to memorize based on this week's teaching:

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:11-12 (NIV)