

CBC's Women's Ministry Bible Study  
**TWELVE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN** by John MacArthur  
CHAPTER 5 - *Hannah: A Portrait of Feminine Grace (1 Samuel 1-2)*

After reading chapter five, please respond to each item in preparation for group discussion:

1. Expectation of the fulfillment of a promise made by God is a theme throughout the Old Testament. On what did the Old Testament saints such as Job and Hannah base their hope?
  
2. The Levites were the priestly tribe of Israel who served in the tabernacle in various ways. Compare Elkanah's devotion to the LORD and regard for his heritage with that of the Eli, Hophni and Phinehas.
  
3. Elkanah and Hannah loved one another deeply. What did the addition of Peninnah contribute to the household?
  
4. Discuss: *"Honor and eminence for women in the Bible was nearly always closely associated with home and family. Hannah understood that, and she earnestly desired to enter into the noble role of a mother." and "...it has been God's plan from the beginning that women should train and nurture godly children and thus leave a powerful imprint on society through the home (1 Timothy 5:10; Titus 1:3-5)."*
  
5. How did Elkanah and Hannah's love for the Lord and devotion to one another help set in motion a chain of events that would help turn back Israel's spiritual darkness? (See also 1 Samuel 1:22-23)
  
6. Elkanah's attempts to comfort Hannah came up short. She recognized that only God could be her true source of relief. What can we learn of making petition to the Lord based on Hannah's example?
  
7. Eli's rebuke of Hannah revealed his heart and Hannah's response revealed hers. Discuss this.

8. Reread Hannah's prayer of praise for being given a son (1 Samuel 2:1-10). What attributes of God did Hannah acknowledge? What were your thoughts as you read this?

9. MacArthur called Hannah the "very model of a stay-at-home mom." What did she model?

10. What do you know of Samuel?

11. Sarah and Hannah experienced the anguish of childlessness, bigamous discord and a long wait for God's favor. Theirs is amazing testimony of faith and perseverance.

What can you take from this to encourage you in your own journey through life?

***Hannah prayed and said:***

***My heart rejoices in the LORD;***

***My horn is exalted in the Lord.***

***I smile at my enemies,***

***Because I rejoice in Your salvation.***

1 Samuel 2:1 NKJV