

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 12

1 Samuel 1 - 24; Psalm 78 - 84

1 Samuel 1 - 24

1. 1 Samuel begins with the story of Hannah. According to 1:7-8, “year after year” at the sacrificial meal, Peninnah would provoke Hannah such that she would not eat. Yet for this feast, she did eat, and then she poured out her heart to God in prayer. And we later learn that God answers her request. What might be the significance of Hannah’s participating in the feast before praying?
2. Hannah’s prayer was a long time in the making. What long-held pain or grievance do you have for which you have not recently prayed?
3. As mentioned in the sermon a couple weeks ago, with Hannah, Ely and Samuel, parenting emerges as theme in 1 Samuel. What have you found to be an effective way to influence your kids or grandkids toward knowing and following Jesus?
4. In 1 Samuel 3, God speaks to the boy Samuel. If we think God is speaking to us, how can we know it is God’s voice and not our imagination or something else? Do we take enough time during prayer to *listen*?
5. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Based on our culture and human tendencies, how might we be tempted to evaluate individuals for servant-leadership in the church? What criteria should we use instead? (1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:6–9)
6. What stood out to you as a lesson from the life of David?

Psalm 78 - 84

7. We can live each day seeking God and His plan for us, or we can go in other directions. How does Psalm 84 contrast the two perspectives?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

We all have giants to face throughout our lives. Spend some time celebrating the battles He has brought you through and resting in the truth that the battle you might be currently fighting belong to the same powerful God you read about this week.