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## 2. Talk Notes

### 2.1 Introduction

Hannah's story is one of three parts:

4. Seeking
5. Giving
6. Thanking

### 2.2 Seeking (1 Samuel 1: 9-18)

- In her desperation Hannah's seeks God in prayer.
- In our own crises do we similarly seek God in prayer?
- Hannah prays differently - from the heart.
- How good are we at praying from the heart? At disengaging our minds and praying with our feelings and emotions?

### 2.3 Giving (1 Samuel 1: 21-28)

- Making a promise to God is one thing but actually fulfilling it is another.
- What anguish did Hannah go through as she gives Samuel up to the Lord.
- How often do we make promises to God and then, when we have received what we have asked for, just conveniently forget our side of the bargain?

### 2.4 Thanking (1 Samuel 2: 1-10)

- Instead of tears and heartache as Hannah gives Samuel up to the Lord - there is rejoicing and praise.
- Hannah thanks God for all her blessings including the blessing of a son.
- How good are we at saying 'thank you'? Is 'thank you' a phrase we use sparingly or often?

## 3. Questions to consider at Coffee 'n' Stickies?

- 3.1 Why is Hannah's barrenness so difficult for her to bear? Does our society today put similar pressure on those unable to have children?
- 3.2 Do you think Hannah has been praying about her problem before she enters the temple? If not, why not? What finally drives her into the temple to pray?
- 3.3 What is the difference between 'praying from the heart' and 'praying with the mind'?
- 3.4 What does Hannah's story teach us about making vows?
- 3.5 As a church family how good are we at saying 'thank you'? How might we improve?

Matthew Street 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007

The Benefice of Peasedown St John with Wellow

# The Parish of Wellow

## 1 Samuel 1:1-2:1 Hannah 'Prayer from the heart'

### Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below or join us at **Coffee 'n' Stickies** on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.30-9.30pm at 51 Under Knoll, PSJ (Call Jennifer Cole 01761 437768 for directions) to discuss the questions further.

### 1. Talk Passage – 1 Samuel 1:1-2:1 (Page 323 in the pew Bibles)

1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. 6 And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 8 Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" 9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. 10 In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. 11 And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." 12 As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine." 15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." 17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May your servant find favour in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. 19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him." 21 When the man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfil his vow, 22 Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always."

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