

## Sermon Bible Study Series

Title: **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Primary Text: **1 Samuel 1-2**

Big Idea: **How can we cultivate a life of prayer that leads us to thanksgiving and joy?**

1. Pursue God's Presence (1 Samuel 1:10-16)
2. Participate in God's Story (1 Samuel 1:11)
3. Praise for God's Redemption (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

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### Engage

Paul began his sermon with a list of a few common feelings about prayer. "My prayer life is weak. I know I should pray more I don't pray enough. I don't know how to pray. Prayer is boring. I tried praying, but I just can't. I used to pray, but it didn't work"

Do you resonate with any of these feelings of prayer? If you are in a season where you are engaged in prayer well, what are some things that has helped cultivate your prayer life? And how would you like to grow in prayer through this sermon series?

*This question shouldn't take too much time, but should open people to conversation. Validate people's stories and gently invite responses.*

- a. **Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon?** (You may want to be pre-prepared with the main points to supplement if your group is not able to)
- b. **What stood out to you/challenged you/ made you think in the sermon?** (this question could be moved to the deepen section)

### Learn

**Read 1 Samuel 1-2**

1. Pursue God's Presence (1 Samuel 1:10-16) - Hannah is seen in three prayer postures throughout these verses. She prays **TO** the Lord, she prays **BEFORE** the Lord, and she **POURS OUT** her soul to the Lord. Did any of these postures of prayer resonate with you in a fresh way?

2. *Participate in God's Story (1 Samuel 1:11) - What Hannah requests is returned to God for His plans and purposes. For Hannah it was for a son. What are some things in your life that you can request to God so that you might return it for His plans and purposes?*
3. *Praise for God's Redemption (1 Samuel 2:1-10) - Hannah's prayer of praise and thanksgiving is fuelled by the fact that her story is a signpost to God's redemption that will one day come in full. Can you share a time where you were used by God which sparked praise and thanksgiving in your heart?*

## **Deepen**

### ***What questions did you want to ask when listening to the sermon?***

Leaders, allow people to wrestle with the text. Don't feel like you need to have all the answers, but in your preparation think about the questions that will arise and be prepared to point toward Jesus and the Scriptures for answers.

### ***What Scripture passages might inform these unanswered questions?***

## **Live**

*Try being mindful of your prayer posture this week. Whether you are about to have a short prayer before a meal or an extended time of prayer take a moment to pause and consider your posture.*

*For example, before a praying for your next meal. Pause. Consider that you are praying TO the Lord. Take a moment to consider who God is. And consider one of the names of God, like YHWH Sabbaoth, the Lord of Hosts.*

*Or if you engage in an extended time of prayer, pause and consider that you are praying before the Lord. Picture that you are lingering in the throne room of God in His presence gazing at Him.*

*Or if you are in a season of distress, consider the posture of pouring out your soul to the Lord. Consider openly vocalizing all your hurt, disappointments, and frustrations before God.*

*And as you take either one or all of these postures this week, know that God's face is towards you.*