

1 Samuel 1:24-2:11 Our strength is all of God.

For Growth Groups week comm 17 July 2023

For Leaders. Below are the reading guide questions your group members may have considered:

Themes tool: Hannah affirms truths about God that will be seen through the rest of 1 +2 Samuel and repeated by king David (2 Samuel 22). What are some main truths she declares about God?

Compare & Contrast (1): Where is strength to be found for God's people according to the details of this song of praise? (is this what we naturally expect?)

Compare & contrast (2): How does Mary's song (Luke 1:46-56) compare to Hannah's? What are we to make of this?

Main point of this study: Hannah sees and sings a point God's people often miss: Our strength is all of God.

Warmup #1: In a movie how do they 'do emphasis'? So that we don't miss the important bit? (e.g. zoom in and focus on the key 'speech', or use music or silence to get attention, or maximise emotion etc).

- In today's passage Hannah sings a song that plays through the rest of the whole book.

Warmup #2: For us reading the O.T. today it can feel 'long ago / far away / difficult. What are some riches you have found in the OT that keep you coming back to it?

Recap: How might we summarise Hannah's situation before her prayer is heard?

(aiming to see what degree of familiarity there is with ch 1 among the group, to work out how much to read)

Read: 1 Samuel 1:24-2:11 (or could read from 1:1-2:11 if appropriate)

Which detail of Hannah's song catches your ear? And in what way?

Break into groups to consider a section each? V1-3, v4-8, v9-10?

- What is she singing?
- To/for whom?
- Why does this matter?

How might we summarise the whole song?

In what way does her understanding of God and of this world (eg at end of v8) challenge what Kiwi's might naturally think?

Why is it important to know that God brings strength through weakness?

(eg otherwise we'll miss what He does at the cross; or we might exalt in ourselves and downgrade God in our thinking)

What is the purpose of God giving strength? Strength for what? against what?

(eg to know & trust God; to trust & obey him; to resist temptation or other external threats to faith etc)

How does God 'giving strength to his king' influence how we live in a world opposed to God?

(eg to clarify that ignoring Jesus is a mistake; to cause us to pray for strength to be faithful every day; to help us love those who seem opposed to the Lord; to cause us to credit any gain / win / progress to God and not ourselves. etc)

Pray these things for our church and ourselves.