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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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How to Use This Study

Intro

The opening page of each session contains the focal passages of Scripture for that lesson. Take a moment to read through these passages before your group discussion begins.



His Story

Intended for group and personal use, the **His Story** contains the main point of the session, questions to interact with as a group, and the key components found in the Leader Guide—Christ Connection, Essential Doctrines, and In Defense.



The **Christ Connection** specifically points out how the biblical passage for that session points to Jesus, thus connecting the dots and helping students to understand how the books of the Bible fit together.



There are **99 Essential Doctrines** we will see covered over the course of three years. Each session will contain an essential doctrine that directly relates to the Bible study material. Knowing these doctrines will help you, as a student, to be more grounded in what Christianity teaches and celebrates, as well as being better equipped to explain to others what it is you actually believe.




The **In Defense** section discusses apologetic issues and questions related to the lesson. The term “apologetics” simply refers to the task of defending the faith, or being able to explain why we believe what we believe. Thus, this section is designed to bring greater clarity about a specific part of the text, answer tough questions raised by skeptics, and to simply help you be able to better defend your beliefs to any who may ask why you believe Christianity to be true.

Our Mission

Intended for group and/or personal use, the **Our Mission** section is designed to show how the biblical passage for that day challenges the way we think, feel, and live from that day forward. It is intended to show that every session goes beyond merely learning new facts about the Bible's big stories and characters. In fact, God's intention in the pages of Scripture is to make us more like His Son, Jesus. And one of the ways in which that happens is by constantly looking to Jesus in the pages of the Bible.



Daily Devotions



Head

Why is the Bible so important for us to have for knowing God?

What are some additional truths we know only because of the Bible?



Heart

When have you been open to receiving the Word of God only to find yourself convicted rather than comforted? How did you respond to the challenge of God's Word?

What kind of routine or activity helps you spend time in God's Word?



Hands

How can you prepare to be a voice of truth in a culture that desperately needs it?

What are some practical ways you can be active in sharing the truth of God's Word with others this week?

LESSON 41 | SESSION 1 | 38

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In addition to the group portions of this study, the **Daily Discipleship Guide** also includes five days of devotions following each session. As you journey through the storyline of Scripture over the course of three years, you won't have time to cover some sections of the Bible. These devotions will help with that, filling in the gaps in the biblical storyline and allowing more opportunities to cover biblical themes and insights not discussed during group time. These devotions are also aimed at equipping you to know how to read and interpret the Bible for yourself by providing simple techniques to studying the Bible. The *Seven Arrows* reading method has been provided at the beginning of each week's devotions as a reminder of common questions to ask about Scripture as you read each day.

Session Timeline

A Kingdom Provided



10.1

**God Calls
a Prophet**



11.1

**A Shepherd
Slays a Giant**



11.2

**A Fugitive
Spare His
Rival**



11.5

**A Sinner Receives
Forgiveness**



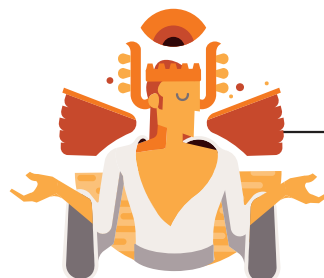
11.6

**The Good
Shepherd**



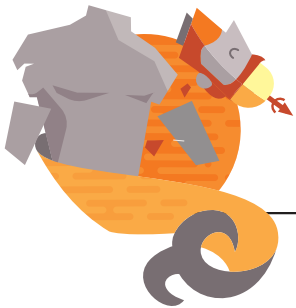
12.3

**A Son Builds
the Temple**



12.4

**A Son Rejects
Wisdom**



10.2

**God Rescues
His Ark**



10.3

**God Rejects
a King**



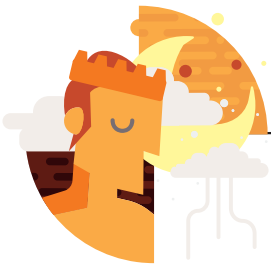
11.3

**A Servant
Receives
God's Promise**



11.4

**A King Shows
Kindness**



12.1

**A Son
Requests
Wisdom**



12.2

**A Son Learns
True Wisdom**

*Then beginning with Moses and all the
Prophets, he interpreted for them the things
concerning himself in all the Scriptures.*

Luke 24:27

About the Authors



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Unit .10

Session .01

God Calls a Prophet

Scripture



1 Sam. 1:20,24-28; 2:1-2,6-8, 3:15-21

20 After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, “I requested him from the LORD.” ... **24** When she had weaned him, she took him with her to Shiloh, as well as a three-year-old bull, half a bushel of flour, and a clay jar of wine. Though the boy was still young, she took him to the LORD’s house at Shiloh. **25** Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the boy to Eli. **26** “Please, my lord,” she said, “as surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. **27** I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD gave me what I asked him for, **28** I now give the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.” Then he worshiped the LORD there. ... **1** Hannah prayed: My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is lifted up by the LORD. My mouth boasts over my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. **2** There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one besides you! And there is no rock like our God. ... **6** The LORD brings death and gives life; he sends some down to Sheol, and he raises others up. **7** The

LORD brings poverty and gives wealth; he humbles and he exalts. **8** He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the trash heap. He seats them with noblemen and gives them a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; he has set the world on them. ... **15** Samuel lay down until the morning; then he opened the doors of the LORD’s house. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, **16** but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” “Here I am,” answered Samuel. **17** “What was the message he gave you?” Eli asked. “Don’t hide it from me. May God punish you and do so severely if you hide anything from me that he told you.” **18** So Samuel told him everything and did not hide anything from him. Eli responded, “He is the LORD. Let him do what he thinks is good.” **19** Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and he fulfilled everything Samuel prophesied. **20** All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the LORD. **21** The LORD continued to appear in Shiloh, because there he revealed himself to Samuel by his word.

What must Hannah have believed about God to pray to Him under these circumstances?

How are you prone to view the gifts God gives to you?

- 1 ☐selfishly
- 2 ☐
- 3 ☐
- 4 ☐ with indifference
- 5 ☐
- 6 ☐
- 7 ☐ as precious
- 8 ☐
- 9 ☐
- 10 ☐ with purpose
- 11 ☐
- 12 ☐



99 Essential Doctrines

Christ as Prophet

As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1:1).

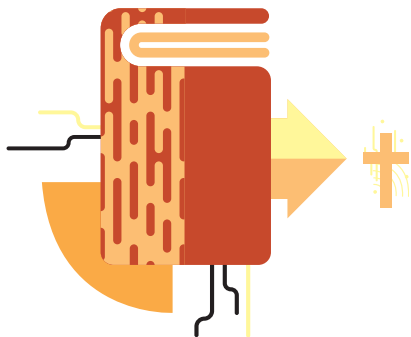
Main Point

God's people are called to hear, obey, and share God's Word with others.

Do you find yourself actively listening for God to speak through a sermon or Bible study you are attending? What are some things that might hinder us from listening?

What are some ways we can prepare our hearts to receive God's Word?

When speaking the truth of God's Word to others, why is it important to pay attention to our tone or the way we speak it?



Christ Connection

Samuel was the long-awaited son whom Hannah dedicated to God for His service. God was with Samuel and he became a prophet who spoke the words God gave him to the people. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word, the long-awaited Son of God sent to show the world what God is like.

Our Mission



Head

Why is the Bible so important for us to have for knowing God?

What are some truths about God we know only because of the Bible?



Heart

When have you been open to receiving the Word of God only to find yourself convicted rather than comforted? How did you respond to the challenge of God's Word?

What kind of routine or activity helps you spend time in God's Word?

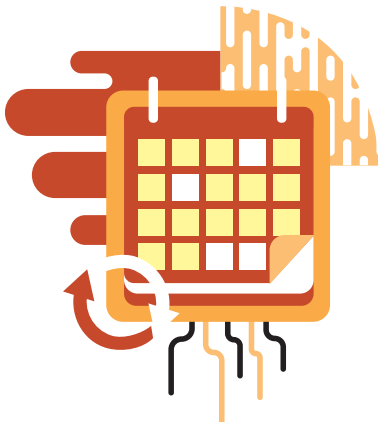


Hands

How can you prepare to be a voice of truth in a culture that desperately needs it?

What are some practical ways you can be active in sharing the truth of God's Word with others this week?

Daily Devotions



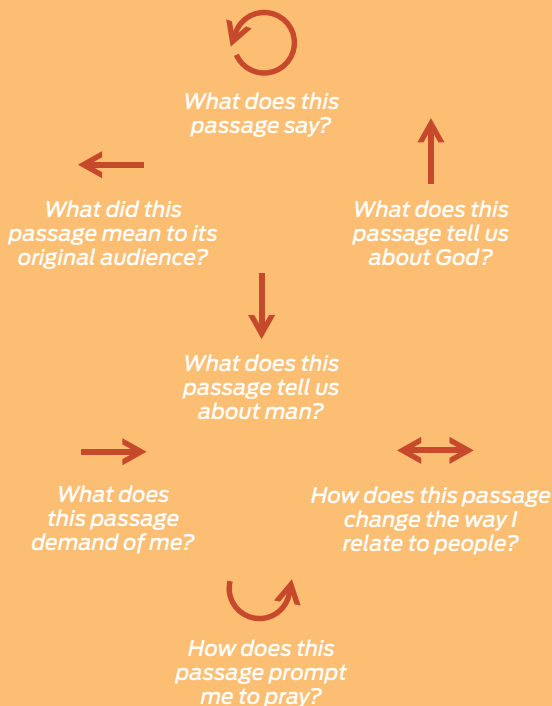
Day 1

1 Samuel 1:1-18

We can learn much from Hannah here as she laid her soul bare before the Lord and whoever else happened to be worshiping near her. There was no plastic mask, no stiff upper lip, no façade. Only tears—many tears. Hannah was more concerned with presenting her pain before the Lord than presenting false strength before others. She was crushed in spirit. She was in great need. So she wept.

What we need to realize is that the tears rolling down Hannah's cheeks were not a sign of weakness, but rather strength. Each tear, each sob, and each gasp for breath in between was an evidence of Hannah's recognition that being real and transparent before God is what matters. We might fool others, but we will never fool Him, so why try? It does no one good. Instead, God wants us to be real with Him and with others. When we do, we see how God meets us in our greatest times of need—in our greatest anguish—to provide mercy, grace, love, and comfort. And we show others that they are not alone in their pain and can, too, cry out to the Lord.

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



What are some ways that you might be wearing a mask before others, or perhaps even before God?

1 Samuel

1:19-28

Hannah had carried the grief of not having a son for years (1:7), which makes it so surprising when she made good on her vow to dedicate Samuel and leave him to serve God with Eli. We would expect her to make such a vow when she was barren—attempting to bargain with God from such a place of weakness would lead most of us to make such a lofty promise. But then, when she cradled her son in her arms and nursed him, we would imagine her maternal instincts would have kicked into high gear, and the rationalization would have begun.

“Why would God finally give me a son, for me to abandon him? Surely that is not what He wants.”

We imagine this because it is what we would have likely done. We’d likely cheer Hannah on had she made the decision to keep her son. We might even want to see Hannah do this so that we might feel better. But that is not what we see. Instead, we see the shocking reality of Hannah following through on her promise and leaving her young son with Eli. Surely this was not easy for her. Surely she wept as she made her lonely journey home, her arms now empty. But what sustained Hannah was knowing God’s goodness to her had provided a son and that same goodness would sustain her as she gave God’s gift back to Him in worship.

What gift from God might you be holding on to instead of giving it back to God in worship? Why?

1 Samuel

2:1-11

We are a curious people. We remember for years the most minor of slights against us but are amnesiacs when it comes to remembering God’s graciousness to us even five minutes ago. We major on the minors and minor on the majors so much of the time. Perhaps it is because deep down we believe we deserve God’s goodness to us, so it is easier for us to take it for granted.

Notice, however, how Hannah began her prayer. After leaving her son in the care of Eli, she does not offer up a prayer of lament or a prayer seeking comfort from God. Instead, she offers an amazing prayer of praise—a prayer emanating from a rejoicing heart, rejoicing that was affixed not to Samuel, as we might expect, but to the Lord. Hannah rejoiced in the Lord because she did not take God’s goodness for granted. She had not forgotten how God had answered her prayer or how He had lifted her up. So now, she lifted Him up. Yes, Hannah also boasted in the victory over her enemies, but even that was not the foundation of her praise. God’s goodness was. And Hannah understood that God was just as good when she cradled Samuel in her arms as when she placed him in the care of Eli.

How has God been good to you in recent days? Be as specific as possible and worship Him as He is due.

1 Samuel

2:12-36

Generations before Eli, the Lord had commanded the Israelite parents to teach about Him and His ways to their children. (See Deut. 6:4-9.) Not long after, we saw how tragic failing to obey this command could be when an entire generation arose who did not know the Lord (Judg. 2:10), initiating the pattern of sin that plagued God's people throughout the time of the judges. Now here, we see once more the danger of neglecting the primary ministry for anyone who is a parent. Eli was the priest, and yet his sons were wicked men who did not respect the Lord (v. 12).

We are all accountable for our own sin and relationship with God. We cannot blame our parents for our rebellion against God any more than we can credit them for our salvation. Parents play a role, a key role, in our evangelism and discipleship and yet we are each accountable and will stand before God as such.

How have the spiritual authorities in your life pointed you to Jesus over and over again? What are some ways you can express gratitude for their faithful service?

1 Samuel

3:1-21

What we read in 1 Samuel 3:1 should sting: the word of the Lord was rare, and prophetic visions were not widespread. In other words, God was rather quiet, and that quietness was likely because of the sinful corruption of the people in that day—namely Eli's sons. God's people held His words in contempt, so He gave them what they wanted—less of them.

We live in a day when God's Word is abundant. Most of us have several copies of the Bible in our homes, in multiple translations. We have the Scriptures on our smartphones. We can access it on a number of free websites. And yet, perhaps we, too, hold God's Word in contempt. No, surely not like Eli's sons—we would never say we despise or reject God's Word—but by our neglect of it. How many days go by without us cracking open any of the numerous copies of the Bible we have all around us? How often do we nibble on God's Word rather than feasting on it?

We may long for God audibly to break the silence in our lives and world, but our neglect of what He has spoken to us in His Word should cause us to tremble.

What is your plan to spend regular quality time in God's Word?