

# LOOKING FOR A LEADER

*A teaching series on 1 & 2 Samuel*

Week One  
Desperation... Hannah's Story  
Remy Diederich

## Outline & Study Questions

### Outline

1. Many Bible stories begin with powerlessness in the face of the impossible.
2. Powerless people do desperate things.
3. We should try to understand desperate people, not criticize them.
4. Desperate times are when we should trust God more, not less.
5. God loves to tell his story through powerless people.

Going Deeper: Use the following questions for personal reflection and/or to discuss with family, friends, and/or small group.

1. Read 1 Samuel, chapter one to recall the story. Reflect on what it must have been like to be Hannah in her situation.
2. Think of as many Bible stories as you can that start with someone being powerless in the face of an impossible situation. If you can't think of any, read these texts: Genesis 16:1-6, Exodus 5:1-8, Luke 1:26-34.
3. What are some times in your life when you felt the most powerless? Take time to share these stories with your group.
4. No one likes feeling powerless. So why do you think God is willing to let us experience it?
5. Reread vss. 10,11. Do you think her prayer of desperation was wise? Do you think she regretted it? Could it have been inspired by God?
6. Has personal desperation ever caused you to do "desperate" things, that is, high-risk activity that you hoped would solve your problem? If so, what was it?
7. Think of observing people who were desperate and looking for a way out of a jam. What are you quick to do: criticize them for their decisions or seek to understand them? Why is that? What can you do to gain empathy?
8. Looking back at your life, has God ever worked through your desperation to bring you to a better place?
9. Read Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-11. Why do you think God likes to work through barren people? (Note: Mary quote from this song in Luke 1)
10. Pray for people in your circle who are feeling powerless asking God to show up in their lives.