

## LISTENER GUIDE

### A Woman After God's Own Heart

by Janet Parshall (True Woman '08)

This whole idea of motherhood is very important to the heart of God. When we talk about mothers, you realize there's no one who isn't affected by this subject, because, if you're breathing, you had a mother.

*My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw, and all I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my successes to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her. —George Washington*

*I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung with me all my life. —Abraham Lincoln*

Text: 1 Samuel 1–2

**The story of Hannah is an amazing story about a man and his wives.**

- Takes place in the midst of absolute \_\_\_\_\_. (Judg. 17:6; 21:25)
- It's obvious that Elkanah loves Hannah.
  - o He gives her a double portion.
  - o Since she couldn't have children, he could have divorced her (according to that day's custom), but he didn't.

**Hannah's story teaches us that \_\_\_\_ is God, and \_\_\_\_ are not.**

- The Lord in His sovereignty closed her womb.
- Her rival provoked her year after year.
- Can you accept His will for your life right now, even if it isn't what you want?

**Hannah chose to \_\_\_\_\_ and completely \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

- She went to the temple and in the bitterness of her soul laid her burdens at God's feet.
- She made a vow that if God would give her the one thing she wanted, she'd turn right around and give her son back to Him.
- She could make this vow because **she was God-centered.**

**Hannah chooses to respond to a false accusation with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.** (1 Sam; 1:14– 15)

**Hannah didn't \_\_\_\_\_ her son just once. She \_\_\_\_\_ over and over again. (1 Sam. 1:21–28)**

- Our children do not now, nor have they ever belonged to us. They are God's. We are simply in a lend-lease program.
- He gives us permission to touch their hearts and their minds, to teach them, to write truth on the tablets of their heart, to help them to know and love the Savior, to get them to know and love His Word. But in the end, they're His and His alone.

**How could Hannah give up her son? Because she was a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

- Her life was God-centered, not self-centered.
- She surrendered. She said, "Yes, Lord."
- In doing so she becomes a magnificent role model for us and what it means to be a true woman.

**After Hannah surrendered, God gave her \_\_\_\_\_ more than she asked for.**

- "Indeed the LORD VISITED HANNAH, AND SHE CONCEIVED AND BORE THREE SONS AND TWO DAUGHTERS" (1 SAM. 2:21).
- She didn't know when she gave up her son that was going to happen.

*Hannah prays for a boy who changed a nation. Mary prayed and was given a Boy who would change the world. The prayers of a righteous mother availeth much.*

*There's something we can learn as praying women, and that is this: Whether you have biological children or not, we are all spiritual mamas to somebody, and we can be praying—single women, childless women, women with a quiver full of children, women who've never had any children—God has put us in the position of being true women for children through prayer.*

**Hannah's story teaches us exactly what it means to be a true woman of God.**

- Her life was \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
- She let go of her own plans and said, "God, You're in \_\_\_\_\_. I'm not."
- She then \_\_\_\_\_ God and said, "God, I believe You can answer this prayer."
- And then she said, "\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_."

## LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

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- She could make this vow because she was God-centered.

**Hannah chooses to respond to a false accusation with gentleness and graciousness. (1 Sam; 1:14– 15)**

**Hannah didn't relinquish her son just once. She relinquished over and over again. (1 Sam. 1:21–28)**

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- And then she said, "Yes, Lord."