

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 9/27/26 Aaron Brown

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

1 Samuel 1:1-8 ¹ There was a certain man from Ramathaim... whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham... ² He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. ³ Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb.

⁶ Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷ This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. ⁸ Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"...¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head..."

Other passages: We strongly encourage you to read the first three chapters of this book this week as it sets the tone for the rest of the book.

Connect: Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

- 1) Aaron talked about “noise” coming from outside of us and inside of us. Which is harder for you to quiet—other people's voices and expectations, or your own fears, doubts, and thoughts? Why?
- 2) Samuel positioned himself in God's presence. What are some practical ways you can intentionally “put yourself in God's presence” this week through Scripture, prayer, worship, or relationships with other believers?
- 3) If hearing God begins with aligning our lives with His priorities, what area of your life right now might He be asking you to surrender to Him (time, money, relationships, work, habits)?
- 4) Spiritual discernment grows over time with maturity. What practices, people, or experiences have helped you recognize God's voice and direction more clearly? Where do you feel you still need to grow?
- 5) Hophni and Phinehas had constant exposure to God's presence, but their lives were still shaped by their own desires. How can we make sure our exposure to church and Christian teaching is actually leading us toward a surrendered life with Jesus?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS