



SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

of the Bible



Week 2
14 - 20 August 2022

CELEBRATING WOMAN OF FAITH, GRACE, HOSPITALITY & HOPE!

Celebrating woman of faith, grace, hospitality and hope!

Has there been a woman of great influence in your life? How lucky you are if you have had a Christian role model to emulate! They become our inspiration as we listen to their journey's and see God's presence played out in their lives.

As Christians we refer to scripture as a source of information that guides our daily living and gives purpose to our existence. The Bible gives us many inspirational characters: at times we search for those historical figures who can inspire us positively and affirm our faith in our spiritual journey. These people and their human stories give us a reason to live a quality life centered on God's values and inspire us to adopt life giving characteristics for own lives. Some of these people have been so influential that many people are (even today) named after them.

There are many women we can learn and explore in scripture but for the purpose of our August series, which is commemorated as women's month we chose only four namely: MARY, HANNAH, RAHAB and SARAH. You will discover (perhaps for the first time) the unmistakable chronology of God's redemptive work in history through their lives. These women were not ancillary to his plan were at the center of it.

Join us every week as we explore each women character and learn life lessons from their lives. May these Biblical woman reawaken our courage, offer us hope, inspire our vision, and teach us values that we can embody in order to transform ourselves and society. Knowing that, like us, it was not their natural abilities that made these women extraordinary but the power of the one true God whom they worshipped and served.

CONTENT:
Weekly Sunday sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time
Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

- Week 1: Sunday 7 August MARY – Blessed among woman.
- Week 2: Sunday 14 August HANNAH – A portrait of feminine grace.**
- Week 3: Sunday 21 August RAHAB – A horrible life redeemed.
- Week 4: Sunday 28 August SARAH – hoping against hope

WEEK 2

Hannah: A portrait of feminine grace

Hannah is the epitome of Grace which manifested itself in the form of motherhood that transcended the barrenness of life. Hannah was about to give up after long prayers and fasting, asking God to bless her with a child. It's a fitting designation for a woman whose life was crowned with grace and who became a living emblem of the grace of motherhood. A study of her life reveals the classic profile of a godly mother.

WORSHIP SONG:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHMjhz8aHTw>
Lord I Give You My Heart Hillsong - Song of Praise and Worship

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION WRITTEN BY: REV BOITUMELO MAKGAMATHE

I Samuel 2:1-11 records Hannah's prayer of praise to the Lord, after receiving the gift of a son from God. She offers this prayer after giving Samuel to Eli the Priest's care. In her prayer before conceiving Samuel she made a vow to God that if she gets a child, that child will serve God all their life. God heard her prayer and she in turn honored the vow she made by giving her son for a lifetime service in the temple of God. Hannah offers this prayer/praise poem about the goodness and greatness of God. The prayer begins with personal rejoicing. She exalts God in her heart. She shows a depth of commitment and love for God. She has just given a big sacrifice, her only son one which she always desired and prayed for but in that moment, she rejoices in the Lord. Hannah gives us an example that in desperate situations when we have nothing else to rejoice in, we can rejoice in the Lord.

Hannah praised God's uniqueness, his justice, power, and his sovereignty. Her bareness that previously afflicted her brought a revelation on how God deals with the weak, afflicted, hungry and the barren. Her prayer acknowledges that God is aware of what is taking place in his world. Nothing escapes His attention. God is not distant and far removed from his people. He is not an idol god, unable to know or respond. God's all-knowing wisdom warns us to be aware of what we say and do because God knows us and will hold us accountable.

Hannah praised God for being a Rock, a solid foundation to stand on. We live in an ever changing and hectic world and it's difficult to know who and what to trust but God is secure and a solid rock we can rely on. God is forever faithful and will not change. Hannah teaches us that our faith in God allows him to bless us. Every person experiences situations that cause grief. Many times, we simply don't understand why the desire of our

BIBLE READINGS

Psalms 116: 1-10

I Samuel 2: 1-6

Matthew 7:7-12

I Samuel 2:1-6

New International Version – UK

Hannah's prayer

2 Then Hannah prayed and said: 'My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ² 'There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³ 'Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. ⁴ 'The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. ⁵ Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons' pines away. ⁶ 'The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.

hearts are not met. But in the life of Hannah we see that God knows and that God will never allow our pain and brokenness to have the final say.

In this story of a jealous wife, a frustrated husband and a miserable barren woman there are phrases describing something that God did. We see a God who in the midst of a terrible personal situation God was at work. Samuel was born to fulfill the purpose of God for the nation of Israel. We are challenged to confess God in our everyday world. The world of everyday life needs to be central in our thinking about God. We need to see God in our daily lives so we can properly enter into his Holy places to praise his name as Hannah did.

Life Application

We can emulate Hannah by seeking God in prayer.

Hannah prayed while in deep distress and still prayed and thanked God when her prayer was answered. Prayer and praise should be central to our encounter with God. We can take our problems to God, trust in God's ability to work on our behalf and trust in God's timing. We can learn to even praise God after giving sacrificially. Hannah praised God after giving her only son. Our giving should prompt us to praise God.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the prayer rituals that you practice when you are in distress or faced with difficult situations in life?
2. It is possible to rejoice in the Lord in the midst of affliction? Do you practice this or not?
3. How can you increase your devotion to prayer and living a life that reflects Jesus?

DAILY MEMORY VERSE AND PRAYER

DAY	VERSE	PRAYER
MONDAY	<u>Isaiah 49:15</u> "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"	Wonderful and Precious Lord. We thank you for your gracious compassion and that you will never forget us as your children. We have comfort in your faithfulness. In Jesus name we pray. Amen
TUESDAY	<u>Matthew 6:33</u> "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."	Heavenly father, teach us to completely surrender to you and to seek you in all things we do. We pray that we may depend on you as provider, healer, and redeemer. Amen.
WEDNESDAY	<u>Deuteronomy 4:29</u> "But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul."	We thank you Lord that when we seek you, you will be found. You are never far from us. Help us to live as those who pursue you with all our hearts and soul. In Jesus's name. Amen
THURSDAY	<u>Hebrews 11:6</u> "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."	Gracious God, thank you for my faith and for all those who helped me to know you and your grace. I offer you my praise, my thanks and my heart. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen

FRIDAY	<u>Proverbs 14:32</u> “When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous seek refuge in God.”	Dear God, I pray that I will trust in you in all circumstances and to always seek refuge in you and not in the knowledge of this world. Thank you for my salvation in Christ. Amen
SATURDAY	<u>1 Chronicles 28:9</u> “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.”	Heavenly parent, teach us to serve you with our whole heart and with willing minds. Help us to seek you with all our heart, mind, and soul. We pray this over our lives and the lives of those who are seeking for you. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen



BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN’S PASTOR
jennyb@bmc.org.za

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Activity/Family Moment:

Hannah’s story

First watch this link for the scripture reading: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvVfSeG_ITs

Hannah loved God very much. She prayed to God so much about one thing. She wanted to have a child. But she had to wait a long time before she become a mom. Hannah did not give up because she knew, and trusted God that God would hear her prayers.

What do you think it means to trust?

You can play trust falls

Parents, please exercise caution if you child is not strong enough to catch you, please refrain. If they insist, have mats/cushions or a soft landing encase things go wrong!

How to play.

- Pair up.
- One person (a) will stand with their back to their partner (b). This person (a) is to have their arms crossed across their chest.
- This person (a) will fall BACKWARD into their partners (b) arms.
- You can swop partners.

This is a very simple demonstration of how it is to trust people. It can be very scary giving another person control. But it can feel very rewarding when you are caught and when you are able to safely catch your partner.

- You can discuss as a family how you felt doing this exercise.
- How can we trust God? (We can remember that God hears our prayers, God loves us, God will never leave us, and God has a plan for all of us).