



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 2

Lesson Title: Hannah Gives Samuel to the Lord

Take Home Point Our lives belong to God.

Warm-Up:

Have you ever noticed how some people attempt to control the use of a gift they have given to another? It's as though the gift is not really given away, just "loaned" to the recipient. And the larger the gift, the more likely this is to be so. Some try to do this via their last will and testament: "I leave this property to my children, but it may not be sold during their lifetime." Others do it while still alive: "I gave you that car to drive, not to sell! If you don't want it, I want it back!" To give means to allow the recipient to do with the gift whatever he/she chooses to do. In our property-conscious culture, it can be easy to forget that the giver no longer has control or ownership of the gift.

Read: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, 18-21

Observation (What happened?):

What vow did Hannah make to the Lord?

What was Samuel doing and what was happening to him as he stayed at the temple?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How do you think Hannah felt when she brought her son Samuel to Eli?

What was the purpose behind the Lord keeping Hannah from having children?

Insight:

When God has something important for us, he usually will teach it more than once and in more than one way. The central act of this Bible event – Hannah giving her son to Eli to live and work in the temple – is just such an occurrence. Through Hannah's selfless gift of her son, we are given an image of the greatest gift of all – God's own Son who gave his life to rescue us from sin and death. Think of other times the Lord teaches this to us. In Genesis 22 we read about Abraham being told to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to the Lord, and God praised him for his faith. In Judges 13, God directed Manoah and his wife to dedicate their son to the Lord; his name was Samson, and God used him to rescue and lead Israel for years. In Exodus 4, God calls the entire nation of Israel his "firstborn," and even within Israel God calls out the Levites as his own. These are all illustrations of what the Lord did – giving up his Son so we could belong to him.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

To whom do you belong? How do you know?

Take a few minutes to think of the benefits of belonging to the Lord. Write some down.