



LEADER TIPS

Supplemental Texts & Key

Sermon Scripture References

Judges 21:25; Deuteronomy 7:13-14; Matthew 5:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Romans 12:1-2; John 15:5

Sermon Description

In this opening message from our new series “When Mess Meets Mercy: the Gospel of 1 Samuel,” Pastor Andrew tells Hannah’s story, who is a woman of grace. In so doing, he describes what it means for us to be people of grace who see that barrenness is not a barrier to receiving God’s grace and blessings in our lives. In fact, barrenness seems to be a necessary condition for God’s grace and blessing to be what it is in our lives. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for the kingdom of heaven is theirs” (Mt. 5:3). The redeeming activity of such sovereign grace is recapitulated in a myriad of ways as God often brings blessing out of barrenness.

Text Insights

- In the Hebrew Bible, 1 Samuel comes immediately after the Book of Judges, picking up where that book leaves off—note, Judges 21:25.
- Hannah’s name means “favored” or “a woman of grace
- Hannah’s barrenness represents Israel’s barrenness.
- v. 5’s “double portion” literally translates “a portion of on pair of nostrils”
- Details for the Nazirite vow is described in Numbers 6:1-21

Discussion Primer

Consider opening up your time together by discussing the primer question, which flows directly from the week’s scripture focus and sermons. Forward the primer to your MC and encourage them to prayerfully consider it in advance of meeting.

Sermon Description

The sermon description is provided to help you as a leader recall the key points, terminology and emphases from the recent sermons. Often it may be helpful to use these in summarizing the sermons for your MC and/or in helping you to guide the discussion of the six replicable questions.

Replicable Questions

These questions are used to stimulate interaction with the text. Over time, our hope is that these questions will begin to frame the way our church approaches reading the bible and listening to sermons.

Intersection

Consider using one or more of these questions to stimulate further discussion with respect to how the text and the sermon intersect with our lives and our church in direct and meaningful ways.

Vision Casting

As leaders, be intentional to cast vision regularly and reminding your MCs why we do what we do, that is, out of a desire to know God more deeply, to treasure his gospel more richly and to fulfill our mission more faithfully. Remind participants of the MC stipend and ask if they know of needs that could be met with the funds.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

What is grace? Why is barrenness a necessary condition for grace to do what it does in our lives?

SERMON OUTLINE

**WHEN MESS MEETS MERCY: THE GOSPEL OF 1 SAMUEL
“FROM BARRENNESS TO BLESSEDNESS” | 1 SAMUEL 1:1-28**

Big Idea: God brings blessing out of barrenness according to the power and purposes of His grace.

Sermon Outline

- Hannah’s Introduction (vv. 1-3)
- Hannah’s Sufferings (vv. 4-8)
- Hannah’s Prayer (vv. 9-18)
- Hannah’s Blessing (vv. 19-23)
- Hannah’s Devotion (vv. 24-28)
- Four Gospel Notes Struck in Hannah’s Story
 - Being people of grace means we embrace our barrenness.
 - Being people of grace means we trust that God brings blessing out of barrenness.
 - Being people of grace means we devote our entire selves to God.
 - Being people of grace means we are blessed to bless.

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 and explore together what the passages reveal about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to neighbor? |

INTERSECTION: *How does the text intersect with our lives?*

- ▶ Hannah’s story should not be read as a template for how God will always respond to a woman of grace who may not be able to conceive. Why is this important and how then should approach Hannah’s story? (See next question for guidance)
- ▶ The nuances of our individual stories serve a purpose in God’s collective story of redemption. Have you considered your narrative and how God may use it to serve others?
- ▶ When you are ‘deeply hurt’ is your instinct to the Lord? Why or why not?
- ▶ How is Hannah an example of what it means to “cast your anxieties upon the Lord because he cares for you”? (1 Pt. 5:7a)
- ▶ When have you brought your barrenness to the Lord and left it with Him? How did this impact your spiritual formation?
- ▶ Discuss the theme of barrenness and fruitfulness in light of John 15:5.
- ▶ What does it mean to embrace our barrenness? How might we do so?
- ▶ How has God brought blessing out of barrenness in your own life story?
- ▶ What does it mean to be people of grace? Which of the four descriptions provided is God pressing upon you to apply in your life right now? How might you do so?

APPLICATION: “So, what now?”

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Encourage specificity in response to God’s revelation by asking if there is . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |