



Small Group Discussion Questions

Following the Weekend of July 25-26, 2026

No need to answer every question. Feel free to jump around.

When God Sees Your Heart

(I Samuel 1:1-20)

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

Group Interaction & Application

Read aloud together I Samuel 1:1-20.

What words, phrases, concepts, or images from these verses stand out to you as you just read them, or create curiosity for you in some way?

What aspects of Pastor Alan's message gave you fresh insight into this passage, or helped you the most in understanding these verses and what we experience here?

Within this portion of scripture, we get introduced to stories of people to whom you can likely relate.

When have you felt like Elkanah or Eli and failed to see the heart of someone close to you?

When, if ever, have you felt or acted a bit like Peninnah (failing to appreciate your blessings and maybe hurting others who have not been blessed in the same way)?

When have you experienced a pain/anguish like Hannah's?

When you encounter someone who is suffering, how easy or difficult is it for you to stay focused on their challenge vs. shifting the focus – either towards yourself or towards a solution to their problem?

Pastor Alan provided a definition for empathy – “Empathy is not emotional duplication. It’s emotional presence.”

How, if at all, does this definition offer new insight into how to engage with someone in distress?

What can result in getting this (being empathetic) wrong?

Read together the following quote.

“Your helplessness is your best prayer.” – Pastor O. Hallesby

How do you respond to this quote?

When have you prayed with a heart posture that reflected what this quote is getting at?

In verse 11, we read that Hannah made a vow to God.

Pastor Alan pointed out how this was not a transaction but was instead a sacrifice. He also stated that we often get the helplessness of prayer right but often miss the surrender part.

As you process Hannah’s vow and what Pastor Alan shared about this heart posture, what is your response to what you see Hannah exhibiting?

How well or how often do you truly surrender in your prayer life?

What are some examples of how you have brought surrender to your prayers?

When, if ever, have you prayed with great anguish? (vs. 10)

When, if ever, have you experienced a similar type of peace that Hannah did because of prayer? (vs. 17-18)

If you long to feel peace like this today, what steps could you take?

Conclude by praying for one another in taking practical next steps in applying this weekend’s message and group discussion, after which pray for group needs and concerns.

Messages are available audio or video on our App or at cccgreeley.org.