

FUMC WESTFIELD • SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Engaged Living



The Story of Hannah (Crying and Vowing) (September 15-21)

'For this child I [Hannah] prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to Him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' 1 Samuel 1:27-28

Monday – Read 1 Samuel 1:10-11. When we are in true despair, we often call out to God. This was the case with Hannah. But Hannah did not just ask for what she wanted (a son); at the same time, she promised to give the child to God as a nazirite (one who was consecrated and set apart for a lifetime of service to God). Think about how you pray – do you just ask – or do you ask, and promise, and thank God? Try to pray more complete prayers this week.

Tuesday – Read 1 Samuel 1:27-28. How many times have you heard stories about people who were in danger of death, who called out a prayer to God like 'Save me God, and I'll go to church every Sunday from now on' or something similar? How many follow through with that promise? Hannah did follow through with her vow, and gave Samuel in service to the Lord. Read through the words of the hymn 'O Jesus, I Have Promised' (UMH 396), and think about your commitment to the Lord.

Wednesday - Read Psalm 86: 1-7. David wrote many beautiful psalms where he poured out his soul to God. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, read the words of these verses together and give thanks for a loving God.

Thursday – Read Psalm 56:8. Tears in a bottle – sometimes I think God must have a 55-gallon drum full of my tears. This psalm reminds us that God knows about and counts every tear we cry. He is always there to listen and comfort when we are upset. Read Psalm 150 aloud as your thank you prayer to God.

Friday – Read Luke 22:41-44. Even Jesus cried out to God in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane right before He was betrayed. This is the ultimate model of a cry/prayer/vow to God – 'yet Thy will be done'. How hard it is for us to mean that. Meditate on 'yet Thy will be done' this week.

Saturday – Read Psalm 30:5. We are so blessed – as Christians we know with certainty that God will prevail and we will live forever with Him in heaven. Talk about joy coming in the morning! Give thanks to God for your salvation through Jesus Christ and share that joy with a friend or co-worker.