

GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

1 SAMUEL 1:1-28

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – APRIL 12, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 1:1-28 (ESV)

REACH ONE

REACH ONE - *Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.*

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When have you NOT received what you wanted at first, only to receive something better in the end?

SERMON RECAP

God's story is bigger:

- The story God is writing is bigger than your pain.
- The story God is writing is bigger than your plans.
- Let God broaden your story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What characters do you see in the story?
 - Who are the main characters of the story?
 - What are the points of dynamic crisis or tension in the story?
 - How is the dynamic crisis or tension in the story resolved?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. The Setup (1 Samuel 1:1-8)
 - What is the setting of this story?
 - What kind of relationships do you see in Elkanah's family?
 - What role does religious and personal sacrifice play in Elkanah's family?
2. Personal Pain and Personal Plans (1 Samuel 1:9-18)
 - What pain does Hannah experience and how does it impact her?
 - How do Hannah's plans change from the beginning of the story to the end?
 - How are Hannah's actions misunderstood and what is the impact of her prayer?
3. The Resolution (1 Samuel 1:19-28)
 - What did God do for Hannah?
 - What did Hannah do for God?
 - How is Hannah's heart and her faith broadened by God?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. God Broadens Your Story

- How does your setting influence your desires?
- How do immediate and extended family influence your desires?
- What has personal pain driven you to plan in your life?
- What plans have you made that shifted because of circumstances beyond your control?
- What kinds of behaviors do you exhibit when your plans are not aligned with God's plan?
- How does reliance on God minimize your pain and maximize your plans?
- How does your life grow bigger when you are aligned with God's plan?
- How has God broadened your heart and your faith?
- How can you be open to what God wants to do, even if it doesn't look exactly the way you thought it would look?