

# WHAT KIND OF GOD DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

## 1 SAMUEL 2:1-11

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - APRIL 19, 2026

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11. The full passage is essential for today's discussion.

#### 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.

#### SERMON RECAP

What you think about God will determine (and is now affecting): how you think about the circumstances you walk through in your life; the way you view and act toward people around you; and what you think about yourself.

Pastor Platt outlined 20 truths about God revealed in Hannah's prayer:

1. God is the fountain of exuberant joy.	11. God makes the dead alive.
2. God is the source of absolute strength.	12. God makes the poor rich.
3. God is the guarantee of ultimate victory.	13. God makes the humble high.
4. God is the Savior of my soul.	14. God makes the outcast royalty.
5. God is the source of absolute strength.	15. God makes the shamed honored.
6. God is unshakably powerful.	16. God reigns over all the world.
7. God is infinitely wise.	17. God blesses all who trust in His love.
8. God makes the weak strong.	18. God is the King who has come for you and me.
9. God makes the hungry full.	19. God judges all who turn from His lordship.
10. God makes the barren abundant.	20. God is the Sovereign who is worthy of all your surrender.

Five takeaways when you truly know and believe in God:

1. You can view this world with humble confidence.
2. You can view your life with joyful contentment.
3. Casual worship will no longer be conceivable to you  
Total surrender will no longer be negotiable for you.
4. Global mission will no longer be optional for you.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Observation: What does this passage say?*

1. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11 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.
2. What emotions does Hannah express during the beginning of her prayer? Who is the source? (v. 1)
3. What do you learn from Hannah's prayer about the character of God? (vv. 1-3, 10)
4. What does Hannah say about human pride and God's infinite wisdom? (vv. 3, 10)
5. What contrasting types of people are highlighted in verses 4-8?

6. What promises are revealed in verses 9-10?
7. What future-looking statements appear in verses 9-10?
8. Where does Hannah leave Samuel, and under whose care? (v. 11)
9. How would you summarize 1 Samuel 2:1-11?

***Interpretation: What does the passage mean?***

1. What is Hannah declaring about God with these words, “My horn is exalted in the Lord” in verses 1-2? What does “horn” mean? (v. 1; 2 Samuel 22:2-3; Psalm 18:2; 89:17)
2. Why is Hannah’s heart bursting with joy in vv. 1-2?
  - What is Hannah declaring about who God is? Deuteronomy 4:35; 2 Samuel 22:32; Isaiah 46:9
  - What similarities do you see with Hannah’s rejoicing and those of others whom God delivered? Read Exodus 15:1-11 and Jonah 2:9
  - How was Hannah able to surrender her son to the service of the Lord, despite her pain? (v. 11)
3. In a world of war, conflict, pain, suffering, and hard circumstances, what does Hannah’s confidence reveal (vv. 2-8) about God’s:
  - Absolute unshakable power and absolute strength - Psalm 62:2, 7; 145:3; Isaiah 40:15-17, 25
  - Incomparable goodness - Psalm 100:5; 145:17
  - Infinite wisdom - Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 55:8-9
  - Sovereignty - Job 42:2; Romans 5:3-5; 8:28-29; 1 Peter 5:10
4. What does Hannah’s prayer reveal about how God works on behalf of people in need (vv. 4-8)
5. Who is the Lord’s king, the Lord’s anointed, who will receive strength and whose horn will be exalted in verse 10?
  - What does the word “anointed” mean? (Luke 1:30-33)
  - What are some similarities between Hannah’s prayer and what Mary and Zechariah prayed in response to the birth of their sons? (Luke 1:46-55, 68-69)

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

1. What part of Hannah’s prayer most challenges or encourages you right now?
2. Do you believe in this God?
  - If not, what is preventing you from believing this God?
  - What aspects of God’s character (His sovereignty, absolute strength, unshakeable power, or infinite wisdom) are you struggling to believe?
  - How can your Church Group pray for you?
3. What in your life is right now is inconsistent with belief in this God?
  - What fears, worries, or anxieties exist in your life that are inconsistent with belief in this God?
  - What sin in your life are you holding onto that is inconsistent with belief in this God?
  - Is there any way you have grown apathetic or casual in relationship to this God?
  - Is there anything in your life you have not surrendered, or are unwilling to surrender, to this God?
  - How is this God calling you to make him known through your life - right where you live, work, and/or among the nations?
  - How can your Church Group pray for you?
4. What would it look like this week to walk with “humble confidence” and “joyful contentment” with belief in this God?
  - How might God be inviting you to “rejoice in His salvation” even before your circumstances change?
  - Who in your life needs the kind of hope Hannah expresses - someone who needs to be reminded that God sees and lifts the lowly? How would you share the good news of Jesus with them, starting from this passage?