



“The Good Life | How to Be Strong”

October 2

Discussion Questions

1. Who on the world stage right now do you consider to be strong? In what way and why? What are the dominant idols (good things that become ultimate things) in our culture today and why does each of them have power?
2. Read 1 Samuel chapter 1. Why is Hannah suffering so much and in what ways does our Western culture today oppress people?
3. Why does Hannah give up her son Samuel and why does this decision give her strength?
4. Read 1 Samuel chapter 2. List off the different reversals that Hannah attributes to the power of God and what does this tell us about where we should get our strength from?
5. Like Jesus, Hannah found strength through sacrifice and suffering, which enabled her to participate in the activity of God in the world. In what ways might that be true for you?

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah's Prayer

2 Then Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the Lord;
in the Lord my horn[a] is lifted high.
My mouth boasts over my enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.

2 "There is no one holy like the Lord;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

3 "Do not keep talking so proudly
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,
for the Lord is a God who knows,
and by him deeds are weighed.

4 "The bows of the warriors are broken,
but those who stumbled are armed with strength.
5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food,
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.
She who was barren has borne seven children,
but she who has had many sons pines away.

6 "The Lord brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.

7 The Lord sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.

8 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes
and has them inherit a throne of honor.

"For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's;
on them he has set the world.

9 He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.

"It is not by strength that one prevails;

10 those who oppose the Lord will be broken.
The Most High will thunder from heaven;
the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.

“He will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”