



The bible is filled with men and women who cried out desperately to God for help. Hannah was a barren second wife - ridiculed and humiliated by the wife who easily bore children. Hannah wept and pleaded with God for a son, promising to give him back to the Lord. God would answer her prayer, but her story is not primarily defined by the son she would bare, but the God she would encounter in her brokenness. (1 Samuel 1:1-28)

REFLECT (10 Minutes)

How has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you through the sermon this week?
OR
Was there anything new or interesting that grabbed you from the teaching Sunday?

Dig Deeper (20 Minutes)

This week Pastor Darren talked about brokenness and how we are invited to pray in the midst of it. This week in discussion we want to explore these themes.

Open your time in prayer and read aloud Isaiah 42:3 and 1 Samuel 1:1-28.

1. Brokenness is usually either **self-inflicted, seemingly random, or originating from someone else**. How do you see brokenness enter Hannah's life in this story?
2. Most people try to hide their sorrow or suffering. Hannah does not. How do you tend to carry or cope with yours?
3. Take a few moments to consider how brokenness has entered your story: self-inflicted, someone else, or seemingly random. *Which of these three sources is the hardest for you to cope with and why do you think that is?*
4. How do you think God is personally involved in these three types of suffering?
 - a. Do you tend to believe this about God in your personal story or life?

What about Hannah's story in 1 Samuel sticks out to you most? How does this particular story challenge your normal way of thinking/operating?

RESPOND (10-15 Minutes)

Henri Nouwen says this in his book *Life of the Beloved*: "The first step towards healing is not a step away from the pain, but a step toward it...we have to dare to overcome our fear and become familiar with it...we have to find the courage to embrace our own brokenness, to make our most feared enemy into a friend, and to claim it as an intimate companion."

1. Nouwen says that your brokenness is part of your uniqueness, your individuality. (87) How is your brokenness unique to you?
2. A remnant of our brokenness always remains, and yet, God often does something remarkable through it. How have you seen God work through someone's brokenness? Perhaps, your own.
3. How do you think the role of "*prayer*" is related to entering the pain and in some sense embracing it?
4. Have you experienced God speak or do something with your pain through prayer? If so perhaps share an example from your life with the group.

PRAYER and Mutual Encouragement (10-15 Minutes)

Take some time to pray one another and any areas of pain or brokenness that have been shared. Ask God to show us how he wants to use our pain for our good and his glory.

LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.