

1 Samuel 1-2

I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer. Show me the wonder of your great love. Psalm 17:6,7

Readings this week:

S 1 Samuel 1
 M 1 Samuel 2
 T Psalm 4
 W Psalm 5
 Th Psalm 6
 F Psalm 17
 S Psalm 113

Fact file

Ramathaim-zophim

- Ramathaim-zophim is also called Ramah – maybe the full name was a bit of a mouthful.
- It was the birthplace of Samuel and it was his home later on. (1 Samuel 7:15-17).
- It is often mentioned in the history of Samuel and of David (1 Samuel 15:34; 16:13; 19:18-23). Samuel died and was buried there (1 Samuel 25:1).
- Nobody knows for sure where it was, but there is a modern town called Neby Samwil (“the prophet Samuel”), about 4 or 5 miles northwest of Jerusalem, and it may be there.
- It may also be the home of Joseph of Arimathea – the names are very similar.

We can learn a lot from Hannah about talking to God. Hannah talked to God like a friend – when she was happy as well as when she was sad.

A man from Ramathaim-zophim

Look at 1 Samuel 1:1-8.

What was making Hannah miserable?

Because of this, how did Elkanah act towards her?

How did Peninnah act towards her?

What situation would make you feel really miserable?

How might you help someone in that situation?

What would make someone in that situation feel worse?

Hannah’s prayer

Now look at verses 9-18, and think about these questions.

How did Hannah pray?

How should you pray?

There are at least two ways in which God answered her prayer. How many can you find?

How did Hannah feel when she went home? Why did she feel like that?

Do you think God hears and answers your prayers?



And when you pray ...

Look in Matthew 6:5-15 and Matthew 7:7-11.

What do these passages tell you about:

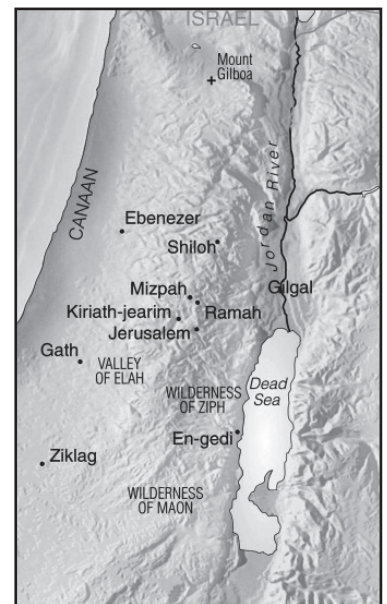
- how you should pray?
- what you should pray for?
- how your prayers are heard?

Why not write yourself a daily checklist of times you should talk to God. Think of times when you can talk to him easily. Tick off the checklist every day, until those prayers become an automatic part of your life.

Thanksgiving

In 1 Samuel chapter 2, Hannah prays a prayer of thanksgiving. She is full of happiness and she praises God for the good things he has done.

- Do you always say thank you to God for good things?
- Do you think you should?
- Is saying thank you to God easier or harder than asking for things?
- Can you explain your answer?
- Do you need to change what you do because of your answer?



Digging Deeper

Eli

In 'digging deeper' in lesson 25 you found out about the judges who led Israel. Eli, the priest was also a judge. Find out some things about him.

What were his sons like? 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-24.

What did Eli think about what his sons were doing?

What did God think about Eli's reaction? 1 Samuel 3:11-13

The Philistines came to fight against the Israelites and defeated them. What did the Israelites do and who and what went with them? 1 Samuel 4:3-4

What happened? 1 Samuel 4:5-11

What happened to Eli? 1 Samuel 4:12-18

Can you pour out your soul to the Lord, as Hannah did?