



EXTRAORDINARY GOD

ordinary women



“Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust, and not be afraid.”

Isaiah 12:2

Schedule

8.30-9.00 Arrival and Registration

9.00-10.30 Session 1

10.30- 11.00 Morning Tea

11.00-12.30 Session 2

12.30-1.30 Lunch

1.30-3.00 Session 3

Our Speaker, Sue Harrington:

I came to know Jesus when I was 17 and it changed everything! Instead of telling God what He is allowed to be like, I began searching God's word so He could tell me what He is like and how to live in His world. I now love to share God's word with others, and I want everyone to know how kind and powerful He is!

I've been married for 45 years to Paul, the Trinity Church Network Pastor and I count it a great blessing to serve and fellowship with God's people. On our days off we love walking by the beach and sharing a yiros. I have three married children and eight precious grandchildren.

I have a legal background and run a small business about a day a week educating lawyers and doctors in risk, ethics and practice management. It's also a joy to serve on the Board of Reach Australia, a church planting and church revitalisation organisation.

Welcome to Flourish Conference – we are so pleased to have you with us today. We pray you will enjoy this special time to reflect and grow in your walk with Jesus alongside your Christian sisters here.

As ordinary women, we can feel inadequate – even overwhelmed – when we face life’s complexities. But as *Christian* women, we belong to an extraordinary God! He can save and use anyone. He is faithful in our weakness. He can be trusted to keep his wonderful promises to us. No matter what life brings.

We pray God will be speaking tenderly, lovingly to your heart today as Sue Harrington shares the real-life Bible stories of three ordinary women who trusted our extraordinary God through danger, discouragement and fear – and found him faithful to save.

We pray that you will be encouraged and inspired as we learn, grow, sing, and share the joy of being together as women who love Jesus.

Book Recommendations

God Does His Best Work With Empty

By Nancy Guthrie (Tyndale, 2020)

You’re Only Human

By Kelly Kapic (Brazos, 2022)

I’m Praying For You

By Nancy Guthrie (10Publishing, 2021)

Waiting Isn’t A Waste

By Mark Vroegop (Crossway, 2024)

Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners

By Dane Ortlund (Crossway, 2021)

Growing Together

By Melissa Kruger (Crossway, 2020)

Songs

Praise His Name (Psalm 148)

Marc Willerton, Nathan Stiff

Behold Our God

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge

We Are Yours Forever

Bob Kauflin, David Zimmer, Keaton Bunting

His Glory and My Good

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson & Ben Fielding

Rise My Soul

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Matt Boswell & Matt Papa

My Soul Will Wait (Psalm 62)

Keaton Bunting, Bob Kauflin

Sing

David Zimmer, Nathan Stiff

God is For Us

Michael Farren, James Ferguson, Tiarne Tranter, Jesse Reeves, Jonny Robinson, James Tealy, Rich Thompson

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

Nathan Stiff

What a Friend we have in Jesus

Public Domain

Christ Our Wisdom

Bob Kauflin, Jon Althoff, Nathan Stiff



“Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust, and not be afraid.”

Isaiah 12:2

Joshua 2

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the ford of the Jordan and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut. Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of

the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

"Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death."

"Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land."

So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

She said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way."

Now the men had said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with

you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

“Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.”

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the

pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. They said to Joshua, “The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

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Joshua 6:15-25

On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.

The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army,

“Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.”

When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the

city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD’s house. But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

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Whenever
I AM
afraid,
I
WILL TRUST
in
YOU.

Psalm 56:3

SESSION 1 - Rahab the Outsider

Joshua 2, 6:15-25

- ◆ *Who do you think is most unlikely to be saved?*
 - *on the world stage?*

 - *within your family, friends, acquaintances?*

God can save anyone, God can use anyone

Background

- *About 1400BC*
- *God had promised this land to Abraham*
- *Judgment on the inhabitants of land Gen 15:16*
- *40 years previously Israelites camped at Shittim, east of Jordan River but believed faithless spies and didn't obey God and enter the land*
- *40 years wandering in the desert*
- *Joshua and Israelites again camped at Shittim east of Jordan River*
- *Joshua 1:2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.*

The people of Jericho were terrified

Reading: Joshua 2

- ◆ *Group discussion: Why record the account of Rahab (Josh 2)?*
 1. *Brainstorm: Why did God give us the account of Rahab? The Bible could have simply repeated God's promises in Joshua 1, then skipped straight to people crossing the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land in Joshua 3.*
 2. *What is surprising about Rahab's actions with the spies and the soldiers?*
 3. *What does Rahab believe about God? See Joshua 2:8-12*
 4. *How do Rahab's words affect the spies?*

What happened?

Spies

Rahab hides the spies

Rahab's amazing testimony: "...for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below" (Josh 2:8-11)

Rahab seeks mercy

Spies report

God's judgment on Jericho

Reading: Joshua 6:15-25

Rahab and her family saved

- ◆ *Group discussion*
 1. *What encouragements do you take from this account as to what God is like and the way he works?*
 2. *What warnings do you take from this account?*

Encouragements:

1. God is merciful and wants to save

Romans 5:6-9 "... While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Having God's heart for all people

God gives people value James 2:1-5

2. Judgment is real

3. God can save anyone

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

4. Belief drives action

James 2:19 "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrew 11:31 "By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."

5. God can use anyone

Jesus' genealogy (Matthew 1:5 "Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth...")

Those who have been forgiven much love much. (Luke 7:47)

God's grace is extraordinary - believe HIM, not your worries or fears.

Judges 4

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, now that Ehud was dead. So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor.

Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'"

Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

"Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honour will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman."

So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his

command. Deborah also went up with him. Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaananim near Kedesh. When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?"

So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left. Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come, my lord, come right in. Don't be afraid."

So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

"I'm thirsty," he said. "Please give me some water."

She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

“Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’”

But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet

him.

“Come,” she said, “I will show you the man you’re looking for.” So he went with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.

On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him. NIV®

Judges 5

On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

“When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves — praise the LORD!

“Hear this, you kings! Listen, you ruler! I, even I, will sing to the LORD; I will praise the LORD, the God of Israel, in song.

“When you, LORD, went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water. The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai, before the LORD, the God of Israel.

“In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned; travellers took to winding paths.

Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I,

Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel. God chose new leaders when war came to the city gates, but not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. My heart is with Israel’s princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the LORD!

“You who ride on white donkeys, sitting on your saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road, consider the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the victories of the LORD, the victories of his villagers in Israel.

“Then the people of the LORD went down to the city gates. ‘Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song! Arise, Barak! Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam.’

"The remnant of the nobles came down; the people of the LORD came down to me against the mighty.

Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek; Benjamin was with the people who followed you.

From Makir captains came down, from Zebulun those who bear a commander's staff. The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; yes, Issachar was with Barak, sent under his command into the valley.

In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. Why did you stay among the sheep pens

to hear the whistling for the flocks? In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. Gilead

stayed beyond the Jordan. And Dan, why did he linger by the ships?

Asher remained on the coast and stayed in his coves. The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the terraced fields.

"Kings came, they fought, the kings of Canaan fought. At Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo, they took no plunder of silver. From the heavens

the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul; be

strong! Then thundered the horses' hooves—galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds. 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD. 'Curse its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty.'

"Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women.

He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk. Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer.

She struck Sisera, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. At her feet he sank, he fell; there he lay. At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead.

"Through the window peered Sisera's mother; behind the lattice she cried out, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?' The wisest of her ladies answer her; indeed, she keeps saying to herself, 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoils: a woman or two for each man, colourful garments as plunder for

Sisera, colourful garments embroidered, highly embroidered garments for my neck—all this as plunder?'

"So may all your enemies perish, LORD! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength."

Then the land had peace forty years.

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SESSION 2 - Deborah the Leader

Judges 4 & 5

Responding to hard times

faithlessness & disobedience ←



→ faith & obedience

◆ *Group discussion*

1. *Discuss the question - When are you tempted to use your difficult circumstances/suffering as an excuse for sin?*

Background context

● **The Bible Project Judges video**

- Israel had partially conquered the land that had been promised
- Joshua 23:3b "...it was the Lord your God who fought for you."
Joshua 23:6-8 "Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. ⁷Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. ⁸But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now
- Warned that alliances and intermarriage would result in them not having the land and would become a snare and cause great pain. Joshua 23:12-13
- The Judges cycle: The people rebel → God is angry → Oppression by enemies → The people cry out (repentance) → Salvation through chosen judge → Peace → Judge dies → The people rebel → etc, etc.

Reading: Judges 4

An awful situation of their own making

4:1-3

5:6-8

Cried out to the LORD

4:3a "... they cried to the Lord for help."

Mark 2:17, Luke 15:7, 1 John 1:8-9

God's merciful response and rescue

God had raised up Deborah

God's rescue plan

- Deborah obeys Judges 4:6
- Barak waives 4:8 If...but...

Love God → Obey John 14:15, 23, 31

◆ *Group discussion:*

1. *When are you tempted to put conditions on your obedience?*

God's continuing mercy

God uses Deborah to strengthen others

The LORD saves

4:14 "...Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands.

Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?"..." 4:15 "the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword..."

- The Lord, Deborah and his word
- The Lord, his mercy and Barak

God is big and powerful - his enemies small and contemptuous

Reading: Judges 5

◆ *Group discussion:*

1. Break into twos and practice your response (an opening line) to a comment made by a friend they are having a coffee with. The friend says “Well, all roads lead to God anyway!” You could say “...”.

Choosing to speak up.

A song of praise

A song of teaching

Good teaching is critical to remembering

5:13-15a

5:15b-18, 23

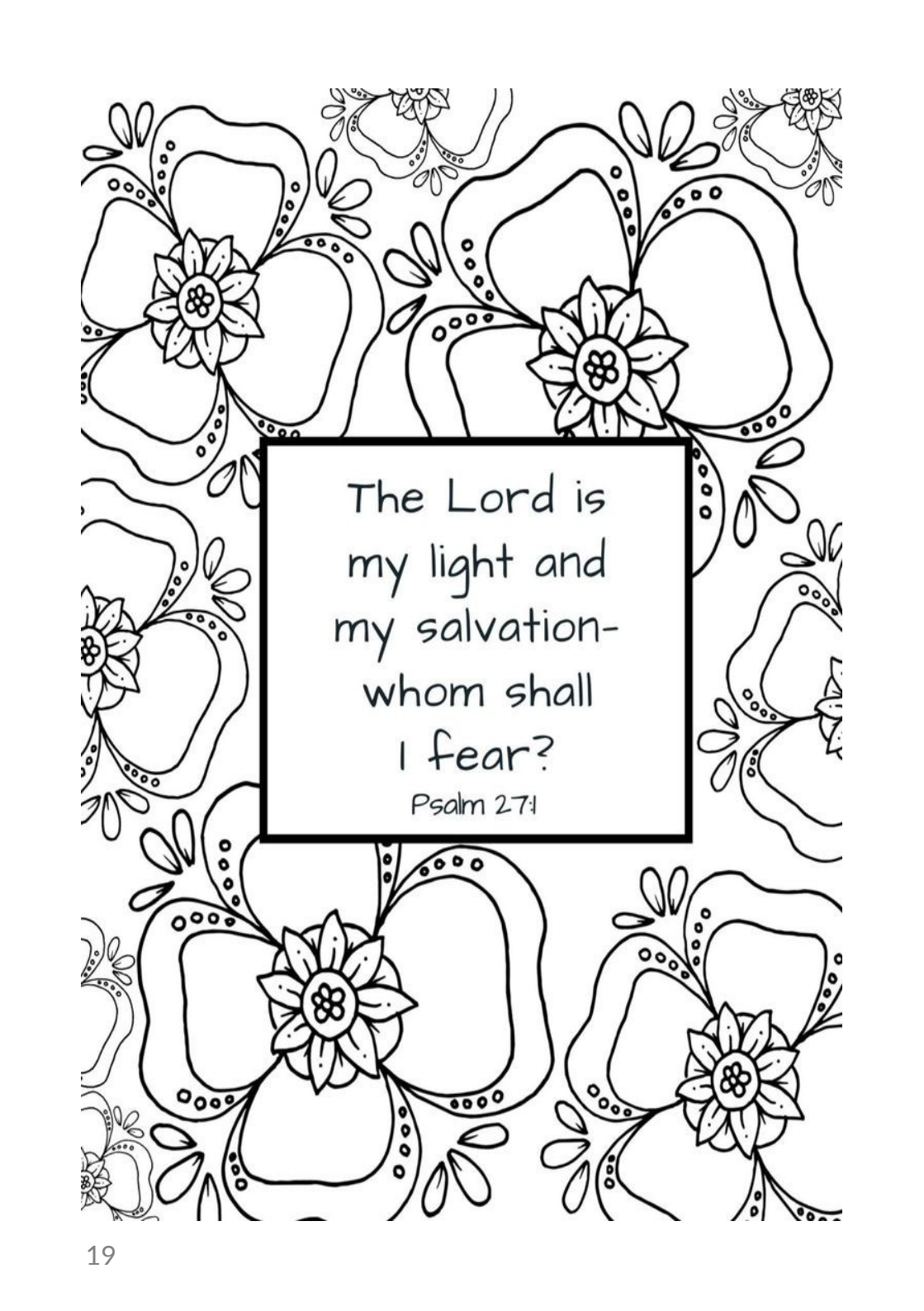
Philippians 2:5-8 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

Practical aids

Eg Read Scripture app.

Follow the extraordinary leader

Jesus said: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33b



The Lord is
my light and
my salvation—
whom shall
I fear?

Psalm 27:1

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord.

Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a

vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."

"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

She said, "May your servant find favour in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."

When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always."

"Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

Then Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the Lord;
in the Lord my horn is lifted high.
My mouth boasts over my enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.
"There is no one holy like the Lord;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
"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.

"The bows of the warriors are broken,
but those who stumbled are armed
with strength.

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.

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

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

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
honour.

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

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 pre-
vails;
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."

Then Elkanah went home to Ramah,
but the boy ministered before the
Lord under Eli the priest. NIV®

SESSION 3 - Hannah the Sufferer

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Vicious cycles

Your vicious cycle...

◆ *Group Discussion*

1. *What do you find hard about prayer to God?*
2. *In what ways do you find prayer a blessing?*

Backdrop of Hannah's story

- *1050 BC*
- *People had entered the Promised Land*
- *God had promised:*
 - *Blessings if faithful - eg Deuteronomy 7:14 "none of your men or women will be childless..."*
 - *Curses if not faithful - eg Deuteronomy 28:15 "However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:"*
- *Judges period, no formal leadership, "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." Judges 21:25. The priesthood was corrupt.*

Reading: 1 Samuel 1

Hannah's situation (vvs 1-5)

Hannah's vicious cycle (vv6-8)

v3 and v7 "year after year"

Her suffering made worse by another's cruelty.

Result → Hannah distraught and overwhelmed

The cycle broken (vv9-18) - Trust and Prayer

A different approach v10 - turn to God - prayer

Open intimate prayer

God cares - Ps 56:8 "You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book."

Hannah:

- knew God's power
- knew her place as his servant
- remembered God's saving works and character
- poured out her heart to God
- made her request to God

Initially misunderstood then blessed by Eli the priest

Prayer and trust - Result → Hannah's attitude changed: "her face was no longer downcast." v18

Psalms 27:4 - critical thing - know God.

God acts for Hannah - micro level (vv19-20)

Hannah responds (vv21-28)

God acts for Israel and the world - macro level

Hannah's prayer, praise, prophesy

Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-11

◆ *Group discussion*

1. Talk though 1 Samuel 2:1-11 and create a list about what we learn about God from Hannah's poetic, prophetic prayer...

Trusting in a God who is powerful and cares

- If you have a promise from God - trust in God's promise (remembering his character)
- If you don't have a promise - trust in God (remembering his character)

Know that God is loving and God is in control

Group prayer

Use what you've heard about God from Hannah's story and prayer to thank and praise God together at your tables.

What a Friend we have in Jesus

written by Joseph Scriven

What a friend we have in Jesus
All ours sins and grief's to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer

O what peace we often forfeit
O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations
Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden
Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Saviour still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Do thy friends despise forsake you
Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield you
You will find a solace there

What a friend we have in Jesus
All ours sins and grief's to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer

Church ministries for you

Sunday Church

8.30am traditional service

10am relaxed family service (creche, Kids Church)

6pm evening service

Prayer Meeting: 8am first Saturday of the month in the church hall

Livestream links at tfganglican.org.au

Bible Study

We have various women's groups who pray, study the Bible, and grow by applying it to our everyday walk with Jesus. These groups provide close Christian friendship and support. Tuesdays 9-11.30am includes a female Bible speaker, small study groups and creche.

Tuesday evening runs from 7.30-9pm, and Wednesday from

10-11.30am. Contact: Danielle Maude on 0422 878 330

Women's Art and Craft

A friendly supportive group, we provide teaching in various mediums for women of all ages and skill levels. We meet each Thursday in the church hall: alternating 10-11.30 am one week, 7.30-9pm next week.

Come for whichever time or art project interests you - bring a friend!

Contact: Carole Weller on 0402 056 093

SWAT Youth update

SWAT Youth runs weekly on a Friday night during school term. We meet from 7pm to 9pm for youth in years 6-12. Our program includes games, supper, a Bible study and a great opportunity for youth to make friends among their peer group. If you have further questions, talk to our Youth contact, Ashlyn Maude on 0478 621 113.

Kids Club update

Generators Kids Club meets weekly on Friday afternoons during school term. We meet from 3:30-5pm for kids aged Reception to year 6. Our program includes crafts, games, food and a Bible talk. If you have any questions, talk to our Pastor, Rick Maude, on 0431 993 455

THANKYOU!!

A big thankyou to all who helped organise Flourish Conference and to those who served us so willingly today.

Special thanks to our MC Jess, Gabi and the wonderful music/tech teams, Iris for the beautiful catering, Sally-Jane and Danielle for admin and organisation, and Sue for the prayer, preparation and love poured into our teaching sessions.

So many women had a hand in bringing us together today. You are all very much appreciated! God has used your gifts and servant hearts to bless us here.





FLOURISH WOMEN
CONFERENCE 2025

