

In this passage Jesus's family is trying to speak to Him because they are concerned about Him. This is not a "they want to chat with you about something or about how awesome you are" but rather a "they want to take you away and stop you from what you're doing" kind of a chat.

6) Who does Jesus point to as His mother, sisters, and brothers? And why is this significant for our lives?

**Read: Matthew 10:34-37 NLT**

7) Let's be honest for a second. These words of Jesus are hard. What does it mean? Is it always true in every case?

**Read: 1 John 4:13-21 NLT**

8) What does this passage say about love and how we should respond to it and live it out towards others?

9) Are there places in your life where you need to receive God's love deeper? And other places that you need to live out your love towards others differently? If so, what are they?

10) Sometimes we experience God's love through people. One of the things that I have experienced in my life is that God has shown me his love through his people at church through my new family. Share a possible example when you've experienced God's love through someone in the church.

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time. Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Is there brokenness from your family that you need to surrender to Jesus?
- 2) Can you separate your family of origin from your destination?
- 3) What does God want you to know about His family and how they love you? What do you need to do differently with that information?

## Here I Am

Pastor Craig Sweeney | January 26, 2025

*"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."* – **Judges 21:25 NLT**

**This is the environment Samuel is born into.**

*"In those days Israel had no king..."*

**No one to shepherd them through.**

*"...all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."*

*"In those days..."*

**Samuel was placed into his generation as a GIFT.**

**Thread:** It's not where you came from, it's where you're going and who you're going with.

*"Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not."* **1 Samuel 1:2 NLT**

**Bible Interpretation 101: What genre of book am I reading?**

- **1 Samuel is Historical and needs to be read through that lens.**
- **Descriptive, not prescriptive**

*"Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of Heaven's Armies at the Tabernacle. The priests of the Lord at that time were the two sons of Eli – Hophni and Phinehas.' On the days Elkanah presented his sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to Peninnah and each of her children...Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the Lord. And she made this vow: 'O Lord of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the Lord, his hair will never be cut.' As she was praying to the Lord, Eli watched her. Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking. 'Must you come here drunk?' he demanded. 'Throw away your wine!' 'Oh no, sir!' she replied. 'I haven't been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the Lord. Don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow.' 'In that case,' Eli said, 'go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have*

asked of him.' ...the Lord remembered her plea, and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I asked the Lord for him.' ...When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh...'Sir, do you remember me?' Hannah asked. 'I am the very woman who stood here several years ago praying to the Lord. I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life.' And they worshiped the Lord there." **1 Samuel 1:3-28 NLT**

- **Samuel's families are broken.**
- **God is faithful and gracious.**

**I want to go back to where we began...**

*"In those days Israel had no king..."*

- **Does your family have someone to lead them? Shepherd them?**
- **STEP in.**

*"...all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."*

- **Everything in their generation was up for grabs and self-definition.**
- **The WORD of GOD was not widely known; just a skeletal structure to guide them.**
- **ANCHOR deep into God's Word and Heart.**

*"In those days..."*

- **Samuel was placed into his generation as a GIFT.**
- **Be a GIFT.**

### **Challenge:**

- Will we trust God to lead us and our families out of our brokenness?
- Will we separate where we came from and where we are going?
- Anchor deep into relationship with Jesus.
- Does your family have a shepherd?
- Who will you be a gift to?

## **Life Group Homework**

Here I Am

Winter 2025 | Week 3

Message Date 1/26/2025

### **MY STORY**

- 1) What do you think is beautiful every time you see it? For example: Something in nature.
- 2) If you had a t-shirt with your pastor's most used phrase, what would it say?

### **QUICK REVIEW**

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

### **DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME**

**Read: 1 Samuel 1**

I have a couple of quick observations. First, Hannah was one of two wives who was unable to bear children. In this culture having children was a significant part of one's identity, especially as a woman. Secondly, because there were two wives there's clearly some dysfunction going on. This is not what God wanted for them and yet people did it. This is not ever the design so remember this is descriptive of the text and what was happening, not prescriptive. Secondly Eli the priest accuses Hanna of drinking. Instead of asking questions about her, he accuses.

- 4) After reading the text and thinking about those observations, what type of struggles do you think Samuel would've had in his home? How do you think it could have potentially impacted him?
- 5) What are some things that untangle dysfunction from families of origin?

**Read: Matthew 12:46-50 CSB**