

Leader Guide

Here I am.

Winter 2025 | Week 4

Message Date 2/2/2025

THE GOAL

This week we are continuing in the series *Here I Am* from the book of 1 Samuel. This week, Pastor Craig focused on some elements of faith. One of the things that he recognized is some myths surrounding age and when we are most useful in God's hands. The goal this week will be to unpack some of the story of Samuel and to discuss faith a little further; what does it look like in practice, why do we struggle with it, and how can we set it before us as a goal in our relationship with God.

MY STORY

- 1) If you had to relive one random day of your life on repeat (like Groundhog Day), which day would you choose and why?
- 2) If your personality had to be represented by a combination of three animals, which ones would you pick and what do they say about you?

QUICK REVIEW

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

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

1 Samuel 1:19-28 CSB

¹⁹ The next morning Elkanah and Hannah got up early to worship before the LORD. Afterward, they returned home to Ramah. Then Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, "I requested him from the LORD."

²¹ When Elkanah and all his household went up to make the annual sacrifice and his vow offering to the LORD, ²² Hannah did not go and explained to her husband, "After the child is weaned, I'll take him to appear in the LORD's presence and to stay there permanently."

²³ Her husband, Elkanah, replied, "Do what you think is best, and stay here until you've weaned him. May the LORD confirm your word." So Hannah stayed there and nursed her son until she weaned him. ²⁴ When she had weaned him, she took him with her to Shiloh,

as well as a three-year-old bull, half a bushel of flour, and a clay jar of wine. Though the boy was still young she took him to the LORD's house at Shiloh. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the boy to Eli.

²⁶ "Please, my lord," she said, "as surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷ I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD gave me what I asked him for, ²⁸ I now give the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." Then he worshiped the LORD there. ⁱ

- 4) What does the word faith mean and how does it apply in regard to the Christian faith?

Faith is not just wishful thinking or hope without reason. Faith is trusting God who is unseen and invisible. It is a quality of a character that can feel scary, that can seem great in retrospect, but in the moment of faith when one must exercise faith it can be hard. The dictionary simply defines it as to believe or trust.

- 5) Pastor Craig shared several elements of faith from this passage. What are some elements that you see?

The first element is that Hannah's naming of Samuel was because she asked the Lord for a child, and He gave her a son. This is her response to God's blessing. The second element is that Hannah dedicated him and gave him back to the Lord. When she gave the boy to Eli, they worshiped. That is also another response in a moment of faith. Whether their prayer had been answered, or whether it had not, worship is always a good response.

- 6) One of the elements of Hannah's story is that she had to wait a significant time for her prayer to be answered. Have you ever had a season in your life when you've had to wait for an answer to a prayer? Have you ever had a season where the prayer was answered spectacularly by God? What was that like?

(Justin) When I first became a Jesus-follower, I was just a passionate on fire 18-year-old kid. I had the privilege of doing a reading at my sister's wedding when I was about 19. I read the passage in 1 Corinthians about love, and somebody said to me, "You should be a pastor". This planted the seed in my heart of a calling on my life. However, even though I prayed and thought God was clearly calling me to this, it was almost another 25 years before I stepped into ministry. Through that time, I have seen God do miraculous things. I've watched a young girl come back to life because I prayed for her. I take no credit for this. It was clearly God, but it was an absolute miracle. She was as blue as a Smurf. The doctor said that she had been underwater for more than 20 minutes without oxygen. And yet she was perfectly fine in that moment. I had absolute faith that God was going to raise her.

- 7) Many times, we think faith must be big for it to be spiritual. It may be, but it also may be something that seems small to others but is large to you. Take a moment and think about the season of life you are in. Is there something that God is stretching you to have faith in? What is it? What one step are you taking towards that today?

(Justin) God is calling me to consistency. This may not be a big faith thing, but it's a day in and day out repetition of things He is asking of me. And most days it doesn't feel like I am moving forward at all.

- 8) In thinking about the story of Hannah, what do you think were some of the difficulties for her?

Doubt, fear—all of these could have been possible for her.

9) Where do you need to grow in your faith?

(Justin) Many times I feel like it's up to me to solve a problem, but in reality, I need to spend time in prayer more and connection to Jesus and allow Him to bring the solution.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

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

- 1) Read chapter one of 1 Samuel again. Are there any other moments of faith you see in this passage?
- 2) What is God asking you to trust Him in faith for?
- 3) Take some time today and think about a person who you can encourage in their faith. Plan to call them and then do it.

ⁱ [*Christian Standard Bible*](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), 1 Sa 1:19–28.