



# WORTH THE WAIT

Studies in 1 Samuel

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

## Moving Day 1 Samuel 1:1-4:1a

On the PGA tour Saturday is known as “moving day”, when those who want to win move into contention for the final round on Sunday. It often starts quietly, but by the end of the day those who could finish on top have surfaced. Similarly, the study in 1 Samuel that begins this week follows this pattern. It has a simple start—a baby is born who will become the leader. This birth didn’t come easy, though. Hannah was unable to have kids and her husband’s other wife, Peninnah, made fun of her. Being very upset about this she prayed for a child and vowed to dedicate him to the Lord if He so blessed her. Thus, Samuel was born, and after he was weaned she fulfilled her vow and he was raised in the temple. Hannah then sang a song of praise to God for turning

the tables on the proud and moving the humble into the place of blessing. This humble child, Samuel, would in fact be the one who would lead all Israel. As he began to minister to the Lord in the temple it provided a study in contrasts with Eli’s sons. They were worthless priests who stole the meat of the sacrifices and engaged in immorality with the women who came to worship. This contrasted with Samuel’s growth in ministry, his training by Eli, and his parents’ faithfulness. God then blessed Samuel’s family, giving Hannah three more sons and two daughters. This was in contrast to Eli and his family. Although he verbally chastised his sons, he didn’t remove them, and this led to God’s judgment. He told Eli that his entire family would be removed from the priest-



**Authentic Christianity is fleshed out in our personal experiences**

hood, that there wouldn’t be an old man in his house, and that his sons’ deaths on the same day would be confirmation. This signaled a shift in leadership, which began with God’s call of Samuel. Three times He called him, but Samuel thought it was Eli’s voice. At Eli’s instruction the next time he responded to the Lord, and was told about the judgment on Eli’s family. The following day, at Eli’s urging, Samuel revealed this and he agreed that this word from God was good. Then, Samuel continued to receive the Word of the Lord for all Israel. They knew he was a prophet and that he was now God’s leader. Moving day had occurred.

## Study Questions for 1 Samuel 1:1-4:1a

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

1. Read 1 Sam 1:1-8. Describe this “certain man” (v1-3, 4-6) and his wives (v2). Where did they go annually and who was there (v3)? What always occurred (v4-7) and how did Elkanah respond (v8)?	
2. In 1 Sam 1:9-18 how did Hannah feel and what did she do (v9-11)? How did Eli misunderstand this (v12-14)? How did the rest of the conversation go (v15-17) and what was the result (v18)?	
3. From 1:19-28 what did God do (v19-20) and what was Hannah’s response (v20)? How did she fulfill her commitment (v21-23, 24-25, 26-28) and what was the result of this (v28)? Apply.	

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## I Samuel 1:1-4:1a - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at 2:1-10 for what did Hannah praise God (v1, 2, 3, 6-9) and on what future event did her praise center (v10)? What caused her praise (v1, 4-5)?

5. Based on 2:11-17 who was ministering at Shiloh (v11, 12)? What was each doing (v11, 12-16) and how did God feel about Eli's sons (v17)? Why were they like that (v12)?

6. Using 2:18-26 describe Samuel's progress (v18, 21, 26). What did Eli say to Elkanah (v19-20) and to his sons (v22-25)? How did God respond to each and why (v21, 25)?

7. Read 2:27-36. Of what did the prophet remind Eli (v27-28)? What were God's evaluation (v29) and judgments on his family (v31-32, 33, 36)? What did He promise (v35)?

8. From 3:1-9 what happened to Samuel three times (v2-4, 6, 8) and how did he respond (v5, 6, 8)? Why (v1, 7). What did Eli realize and then tell Samuel to do (v9)?

9. In 3:10-18 what did Samuel do (10), what did God tell him (v12-14), and how did He describe it (v11)? How did Samuel (v15, 18) and Eli (v16-17, 18) respond to the news?

10. Looking at 3:19-4:1a how did Samuel progress and why (v19)? What did everyone know (v20) and why was this important for Israel (v21; 4:1a)?

11. Summarizing 1 Sam 1:1-4:1a what was God's first step to changing things in Israel (1:1-28)? What principle does this reveal, and why was this so important (2:12-17)? How did God bring about the shift in leadership and how would it be different (3:1-4:1)?

### Scripture to Remember

“There is no one holy like the Lord, indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God...for the Lord is a God of knowledge and with Him actions are weighed.”

**1 Samuel 2:2-3 (NASB)**

### ***Celebration Fellowship***

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### **Life Group Questions—Decision Time (Not a Fan, Week 6)**

*(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Open by asking the group one area of your life in which you feel God is calling you to follow. What will change if you do?
2. Recap last week's video, then watch this week's episode. Talk about what was most moving about this last episode and why.
3. What do you think it was about Natalie's dad that really changed her? Have you ever been around anyone that had that impact on you? Share about that.
4. Why do you think Anna reacts the way she does when people begin sharing about Eric? Why is it that we don't often realize the truth when it is right on top of us?
5. Read Matt 7:13-14. How would you describe the wide and the narrow gates? Truth, by definition is narrow; how then do we balance truth and the ability to love one another.
6. What is the relationship between loving Jesus and obeying His commandments? Why?
7. As you close each person share one thing they need to do as a result of this study. Close in prayer for each one to start that process this week.