

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: GRACE TO A BROKEN WORLD

**1 Samuel 1:19-28, ESV** – <sup>19</sup> They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. <sup>20</sup> And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”

<sup>21</sup> The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.” <sup>23</sup> Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup> And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. <sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup> And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.”

And he worshiped the LORD there.

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week, we learned that God answers prayer according to His purposes. Share a time when God did not answer a prayer the way you wanted, but in accordance with His will?

2 What lessons can we learn from Hannah's example about keeping our promises, especially promises to God?

3 How does the fact that God uses ordinary people to accomplish His will encourage you in your own life?

## DIGGING DEEPER

A **Exodus 2:23-25, ESV** – <sup>23</sup> During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup> And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup> God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

**Jeremiah 29:10-14, ESV** – <sup>10</sup> “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

4 What are the four actions of God in Exodus 2:24? What does each of them mean to the Israelites? What does each of them mean to us?

5 What is a covenant? What are some covenants and promises that God has made with us? What is our part in these covenants? What is God's part?

6 Looking at Jeremiah 29:10-14, what is our part in this covenant relationship with God? What is God's part in this covenant relationship? Can we trust God to fulfill His part? Explain.

**B**

**Acts 4:13-14, ESV** – <sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

**Luke 12:11-12, ESV** – <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

**Luke 21:14-15, ESV** – <sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

**7**

In Acts 4, Peter and John are standing trial before the Jewish Council for healing a lame man. Why does Luke emphasize that they were common men? How did this affect their testimony?

**8**

The events of Acts 4 are a fulfillment of Jesus’ promise in Luke 12 and 21. How did the Holy Spirit teach them what to say? Does this still hold true today? Explain. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit giving you boldness to proclaim the gospel?

**9**

Can people tell by the way you speak and act that you are a follower of Christ? Why or why not?

## TAKING IT HOME

God gives grace to a broken world, even though the world has done nothing to deserve it. As followers of Christ, we have been blessed with the opportunity to be part of the “grace giving.” How are you at trusting God in those moments? Are you staying connected with God in prayer? Are you giving Him the glory for your many blessings? Share with your group what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you look to trust God in moments of questioning.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 17:19, 21; 21:1-2

Judges 21:25

Psalm 6:9

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5