

## **Family Ties**

### Week 2 – A Praying Mother

#### **Introduction:**

This week in our *Family Ties* series also happens to be Mother's Day.

The Bible is full of examples of godly mothers. The Bible also shows us mothers who are very flawed, very human. Godliness and humanity are often found together. Our focus this week will be on Hannah and how she models for us what it means to be a mother (or parent) who covers her child in prayer.

Consistent prayer is one of the greatest things we can give our families, and especially our children. Prayer, however, seems to be one of those things that we easily neglect in our parenting.

We seem to do a great job worrying about our kids. We carry the weight of responsibility for their well-being. The world they are navigating as they grow up is full of challenges, and parents can feel enormous pressure to get it right. Living under that pressure, we let prayer slide. We also seem to do a great job arguing with our kids. Simply put, we are absolutely convinced that we possess wisdom that our children do not yet possess. We know what's best. And yet, we often try to guide them without prayer, and our efforts at guidance become conflict.

What do we see in the example of Hannah that can inform our habits of prayer for our families, and especially for our children? Her story provides the biblical content for our conversations and reflections this week.

#### **Scripture Readings:**

1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:11

#### **For Discussion / Reflection:**

1. We read in 1 Sam. 1:2 that Hannah is a childless woman. What does the story of her "rival" Peninah in vv. 4-11 tell us about Hannah's character?
2. The first prayer we hear from Hannah in chapter 1 is her prayer that God would give her a child. Based on the text in 1:10-11, and your own experience with someone you might know, how would you describe this prayer?
3. Hannah's prayer reflects a commitment to give her child to the Lord "all the days of his life." What does this mean for mothers / parents today?

4. Compare Hannah's prayer in chapter 2. What is the dominant theme of this prayer? How would you describe it?
5. How would you describe or characterize your own prayers for your children (or family) these days? What are you asking of God on their behalf?

**Prayer:**

Gracious and loving God, we confess how often and how easily we fail to pray for our families. We are quick to worry about those we love, believing that their well-being depends entirely on us. We are just as quick to argue, believing that we know what's best for them. We are slow to pray, reluctant to entrust them to your good care. Forgive us, we pray. In these moments of prayer we repent as we bring our families to you. Meet us with your mercy, and pour out your grace on those dear to us as we name them in our hearts in silent prayer, offered in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.