

October 11, 2026

Empty and Filled

from our series, *Powerful: Stories from 1 & 2 Samuel*

Prep: Each person will need a piece of paper, a pencil/pen, and something to write on. And if you want to play the suggested song, have it ready with a Bluetooth speaker.

Warmup: What's your go-to comfort food? Or comfort show? Or comfort song?

REMINDER The stories in the Bible are *our* family stories. They shape us and they show us truths about God and about humans. Immerse yourself in the biblical story and see what the Holy Spirit shows you!

READ 1 Samuel 1:1-28

REFLECT (*it's ok if you don't have time to go through all of these*)

- What questions do you have about this story?
- Elkanah's question in verse 8 gets no answer. What do you imagine was Hannah's response?
- Hannah would have known the stories of Sarah and Hagar (Genesis 16-18 & 21), and Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29-30). How might those stories have impacted Hannah's faith in God?
- How do you react to Eli and Hannah in verses 12-18? Have you ever had a similar experience?
- Everyone write down on your paper the following words (spread the words out so there is lots of space around each word):

<i>Empty</i>	<i>Anguish</i>	<i>Bitter</i>	<i>Discouraged</i>
--------------	----------------	---------------	--------------------

 - Does one of these words describe an aspect of your life now, or recently? If so, write a few descriptions of the situation next to that word.
 - Has your experience drawn you closer to God or away from Him?
 - If you'd like to, share about the situation with the group.
- Read Psalm 139. Does this Psalm relate to your situation?
- Play (or read the lyrics to) *If The Morning Never Comes* by The Porter's Gate. What do you think about this truth that God is with us through all our waiting?

RESPOND

- Read 1 Samuel 2:1-2. What does God need to do in your life (or what has He already done!) to make this prayer true for you?
- Share any other prayer requests and then pray for each other with the authority King Jesus gives you in the power of the Holy Spirit!

"To transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ."