

1 Samuel 1:9-20

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What motivated Hannah to fast and pray?

She had been tormented year after year by Peninnah because she was childless, like the experience of Sarah with Hagar. She fasted and prayed for the LORD to give her a son.

2. Why did Eli think she was drunk? What did he say to her?

She was praying but silently with her lips moving. Eli was unfamiliar with that type of praying so he assumed she was drunk, and he reprimanded her. He said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.”

3. How did Hannah answer Eli?

She answered him respectfully and told him the cause of her suffering and praying. She said, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.”

4. What vow did Hannah make to the LORD?

If the LORD would give her a son, she would dedicate him to the LORD as a nazirite and take him to Eli to serve the LORD forever as a priest. She made this vow: “O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”

5. What did Hannah do after she returned from praying? What did she and her husband do the next day?

After she prayed and Eli blessed her, she returned to Elkanah in peace and ate. The next morning, Elkanah and Hannah first went to worship the LORD, and then they returned home, and the LORD remembered her.

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