

The Heart of Hannah as Revealed Through Her Prayers, Part 1

1. (a) Read 1 Samuel 1 and write down the things you learn about Elkanah, Hannah, and Peninnah. (b) Notice the advice or response to Hannah's despair from her rival in vs. 6-7; from her husband in vs. 8; and from Eli the priest in vs. 14-18. (c) What would be your advice to Hannah? (d) What scripture would you use to try and help her?

2. Memorize 1 Samuel 1:10.

3. (a) Looking over 1 Samuel 1:1-6, in what ways do you think Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife, would have been an added trial for Hannah? (b) Biblically, how should one respond when provoked by another? (Give biblical reference)

4. (a) Who else besides Hannah according to Genesis 25:21; 29:31-30:24; Judges 13; Ruth 4:13 and Luke 1:1-38, had their womb closed or open? (b) Which of these prayed for God to open their womb? (c) What do you learn about an open or closed womb?

5. (a) In 1 Samuel 1:9-18, we see that Hannah was wrongly accused by Eli of being drunk when she was praying. How does Hannah respond and what do you learn from her when being wrongly accused? (b) Who else comes to mind in Scripture that was wrongly accused? (c) What do you learn from their example? (d) How do you respond when doing an act of righteousness that is mistaken for an act of unrighteousness?

6. (a) What do you do when you are distressed over a matter that you can't control? (b) Who or what do you turn to? (c) What lessons can you learn from Hannah that will help you to respond in a righteous way when you are in "bitterness of soul"?

7. Looking at your answers from #6, what is your prayer? Write it down to share with your group.

The Heart of Hannah as Revealed Through Her Prayers, Part 2

1. (a) Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11. As you read this prayer of Hannah, write down all the attributes of God she mentions. (b) How would her knowledge of God help her in this difficult time of giving up her three year old son? (c) What contrasts do you see between 1 Samuel 2:11 and 2:12? (d) As a mother of a three year old, do you think you would struggle with leaving your three year old in the hands of Eli?

2. Memorize 1 Samuel 2:2-3.

3. (a) Read Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-11 along with Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46-56. What is similar about these prayers? (b) What is similar about these two women? (c) In what ways can we be encouraged through the prayers of these women?

4. (a) After Hannah's prayer, she returns home with her husband but without her son. What happens to Samuel next according to 1 Samuel 2:12-3:21? (b) What does Acts 3:24, Acts 13:20 and Hebrews 11:32 say about Samuel? (c) How do these facts about Samuel help to build your faith and understanding of Hannah's vow to give her son to the Lord? Extra Credit: Read the rest of 1 Samuel and make note of what events happen in this man's life.

5. (a) Hannah's prayer of praise is during the time of giving her three year old son to the Lord. Putting your feet in Hannah's shoes, do you think you could praise God during this time? (b) When you are going through a trial is it easy for you to praise the Lord? Why or why not? (c) What reminders could you take from Hannah's prayer to help you be steadfast during your next trials?

6. (a) What can parents today glean from the prayers of Hannah regarding their children? (b) Do our children belong to us or to the Lord? (c) What lessons have you as a mother learned over the years that can help other mothers to not hold too tightly to their children?

7. Write a prayer request to share with your group after studying this lesson. Include a portion of Hannah's prayer in your request.

1. How would you define "Prayer?"
2. Would you agree that it's important to prepare your heart in prayer before reading God's Word? How should we do that? What have you found to be effective as you prepare to read, study, or memorize Scripture?
3. What are other descriptive names given to God's Word and what are their benefits mentioned in Psalm 19:7-11?
4. Paul called God's words, "Sacred Writings." How did he describe these Scriptures in II Tim. 3:14-17?
5. Memorize II Tim. 3:16-17.
6. What are some Biblical steps to take in order to correct any bad attitudes before other sins would follow like anger, resentment, jealousy, unkindness, a critical spirit, etc.? Refer to these Scriptures: Psalm 32:5; Prov. 28:13; Eph. 4:28-32; Colossians 3:8-10; James 5:16; I Pet. 2:1-3; and I John 1:8.
7. Personal Evaluation: In what ways do I relate both to Martha and Mary? Am I serving others out of pride or out of love? Am I spiritually balanced in terms of "Commitment to Christ" more than "Achievement for Christ?" Write out your prayer for any conviction the Holy Spirit has given you.

1. (a) The Lord tells Jonah to go and preach the message of repentance to the wicked city of Nineveh. What are some of the sins of the city of Nineveh according to Nahum chapter 3? (Nahum was written 150 years after Jonah but their repentance was short-lived and their evil returned.) (b) Why do you think Jonah was reluctant to go to Nineveh and chose to run from God instead? (Reading chapters 3 and 4 of Jonah will help you answer this question.)

2. Memorize Jonah 2:1-2.

3. (a) What other facts do we learn about Jonah from 2 Kings 14:25; Matthew 12:39-41; Matthew 16:1-4? (b) What are the meanings of Christ's mentioning of Jonah in the Matthew passages?

4. (a) Jonah acknowledges that his afflictions are because of his disobedience. (See Jonah 1:12 and 2:1-6). Who else comes to mind in Scripture that acknowledges that their afflictions are because of their own sin? (b) What do you learn from these examples? (c) Do you think all affliction is because of sin? Prove your answer biblically.

5. (a) Jonah mentions twice in his prayer in Jonah chapter 2 that he directs his prayer towards the holy temple. Why do you think he uses this terminology? For help consider 1 Kings 8:22-30 and Psalm 18:1-6. (b) Where do you direct your prayers when you pray?

6. (a) Consider a time when you willfully disobeyed the Lord. What afflictions did you endure as a result and what lessons did you learn? (b) How does the lesson of Jonah impact you as you think about first time obedience in your life? (c) How could you use this story to teach your children the importance of first-time obedience?

7. If you were in the belly of a fish, what would your prayer be? Please write it down to share with your group.

8. After considering this lesson, what is your prayer to the Lord? Write it down to share with your group.

1. (a) Read Jonah chapter 3 and make note of any genuine signs of repentance that you see in Jonah and in the Ninevites. (b) Next read chapter 4. Who continued to show genuine signs of repentance and who did not? (c) What lessons do you learn from these two chapters about repentance?

2. Memorize Jonah 4:10-11.

3. (a) In what ways does the Lord exhibit the qualities of 1 Corinthians 13 in Jonah chapters 3 and 4? (b) In what ways does Jonah fail to exhibit the qualities of 1 Corinthians 13 in chapters 3 and 4 of Jonah? (c) Which camp do you find yourself more often in when dealing with others, the camp of our Lord or the camp of Jonah? (d) What practical things have you found helpful when dealing with situations or people that are difficult for you to love?

4. (a) Why did Jonah want to die according to Jonah chapter 4? (b) Who else wanted to die and what was their motive according to Numbers 11:1-15; 1 Kings 19; Job 7 and Philippians 1:21-25? (c) Do you think there is ever a righteous reason(s) for wanting to die? Prove your answer biblically.

5. (a) What similarities do you see between Jonah in Jonah 4 and the older son in Luke 15:11-32? (b) What words would you use to describe Jonah as you consider what is written in the book of Jonah?

6. (a) What valuable principles have you learned from these two lessons we have had on the prayers of Jonah? (b) What have you learned about praying when you are disobedient and when you are angry? (c) What changes would you like to see in your own life as a result of these two lessons? (d) What is your biblical plan of action for change?

7. (a) Looking over question number 6 again, what is your prayer request? (b) Please write one to share with others in your group.

1. (a) According to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 what are some of the reasons God did not answer Paul's prayer?
(b) What do you think his "thorn in the flesh" was?

2. Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9.

3. (a) What revelations were Paul referring to in 2 Corinthians 12:7? (For a hint read 2 Corinthians 12:1-6.)
(b) How would these revelations be a temptation for pride in Paul's life?

4. (a) When considering the following passages, Exodus 3; 1 Samuel; 1-2 Chronicles 20; Psalm 54; Jeremiah 1:4-10, answer the following questions: Who had a "thorn in the flesh"? (b) What was their particular "thorn"? (c) What was the response of each one? (d) What do these passages along with the passage in 2 Corinthians 12 teach you about those "thorns" in your own flesh? (e) What scripture do you cling to when God doesn't answer *your* prayers?

5. (a) Who else in Scripture prayed three times for something according to Matthew 26:39-44? (b) What was the request? (c) Did God answer their prayer? (d) How does the Matthew passage along with 2 Corinthians encourage you when God doesn't answer your prayers as you had hoped He would?

6. (a) What prayers have gone unanswered in your life? (b) How have you found God's grace to be sufficient even though your prayer is not answered? (c) How have you found His strength to be perfect in your weakness? (d) How do these facts encourage you when God does not answer your prayers?

7. (a) What are some of your "thorns in the flesh"? (b) Have you prayed persistently like Paul? (c) Have you considered what some of the reasons might be that God is not answering?

8. What is your need after studying this lesson? Persistence in prayer? Trusting more in God's grace and strength? Rejoicing in your trials? Please come with a request so we might pray for you.

The Real Prayer of Jabez

1. (a) As you read 1 Chronicles 4: 9-10 make note of the requests Jabez makes in his prayer. (b) What was his reason for praying these requests?

2. Memorize 1 Chronicles 4:10.

3. (a) What kind of character did Jabez have according to 1 Chronicles 4:9? (b) Why is this important as it relates to his prayer? Use Scripture to back your answer.

4. (a) How does Genesis 3:16 help you understand what Jabez's mother states in 1 Chronicles 4:9? (b) Do you think the pain that women bear in childbirth is physical pain only? Prove your answer from the Word of God.

5. (a) Jabez addresses God in his prayer as the God of Israel. What are some other names for God that have been used when addressing Him in prayer according to 2 Chronicles 20:6; Ezra 9:5; Psalm 80:1; Psalm 145:1; Daniel 9:4; Matthew 6:9; John 17:25 and Acts 7:59? (b) What favorite titles of God do you use when addressing Him in prayer? (There are many other titles for God used in prayer that are in the bible that I didn't list.)

6. (a) One of Jabez's requests is for God's hand to be with him. What might this signify according to Exodus 15:6; 2 Samuel 24:14; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 119:173; Isaiah 41:10 and John 10:28? (b) How have you seen the hand of God with you during your lifetime?

7. (a) Honestly evaluate your prayers this week. Do you pray to God as if he were a doting parent or grandparent or do you pray knowing that He is God and He knows best? (b) What are your motives when asking God for certain things in your personal life? (c) After considering these questions along with the others, come with a prayer request to share with your group.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication for the Temple

1. Skim over 2 Samuel 7:12-17 along with the first 5 chapters of 2 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles 6:1-11 and write down any events in the life of Solomon that led him to pray a prayer of dedication for the temple of God in 2 Chronicles 6:12-42.

2. Memorize any verse from this prayer.

3. (a) According to 2 Chronicles 7, what happened after Solomon prayed this prayer of dedication?
(b) Did God answer his prayers? (c) How does this prayer along with the events which followed encourage you to pray?

4. Compare this prayer to the one in 1 Kings 8:22-53. What is different and what is the same?

5. (a) What does Solomon pray at the end of his prayer according to 2 Chronicles 6:42? (b) How does this differ from how most in our age end their prayers? (c) What does this teach you about prayer?

6. (a) What petition does Solomon repeat many times in this prayer of dedication? (b) Why do you think he asks for this certain thing?

7. (a) If you were to pray a prayer of dedication for the church you attend, what things would you include?
(b) What other things or events might we desire to dedicate to the Lord? (c) Have you ever prayed a prayer of dedication for anything? (d) If so, what did you dedicate to the Lord?

8. Is there anything or anyone you would like to dedicate to the Lord? Write a prayer of dedication for that thing or that person.

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1. (a) Read Nehemiah chapter 1. What events prompted Nehemiah to pray? (b) What are the various aspects of his prayer? (c) What aspect of prayer does he devote the most time to? (d) Why is this important? (e) When you pray, what aspects of prayer do you devote the most time to?

 2. (a) According to Nehemiah chapter 2, what events took place after Nehemiah's prayer? (b) Did God answer his prayer? (Read over Nehemiah chapter 6 to find out.) (c) What type of opposition was there for those trying to rebuild the wall? (Skim chapters 4-6 for the answer.) (d) What do you learn about answered prayer from the events which took place after Nehemiah's prayer?

 3. (a) Skim over the remaining chapter of Nehemiah and write down any facts you learn about this man. (b) How does his life encourage you?

 4. Memorize Nehemiah 1:4.

 5. (a) Who else comes to mind from scripture that turned to God during troublesome times? (b) What do you learn from their examples?

 6. (a) When you get troubling news, like Nehemiah did, what is usually your first response? (b) Do you call out to God in prayer as he did?

 7. (a) What has your heart been burdened about this day? (b) What can you learn from the life and prayers of Nehemiah that will help you as you face this difficulty?

 8. As you contemplate questions 6 and 7 write a prayer request to share with your group.

1. (a). Read Psalm 84. What are the names the Psalmist uses for God in Psalm 84? (b) When you pray, do you use different names when addressing the Father? (c) What is the benefit of this?

2. Memorize Psalm 84:1-2.

3. (a) Psalm 84 was written for the Sons of Korah. Look up I Chronicles 9:19, 26:1-19, and II Chronicles 20:19. What were the responsibilities of the Sons of Korah according to these verses? (b) How does that fit with what the Psalmist says in Psalm 84?

4. The Psalmist describes the Lord's tabernacles as lovely in Psalm 84:1. Read Revelation 21 and 22 to see how John describes heaven. What things are there that are lovely?

5. (a) What do the following verses tell you about the strength of the Lord? What comfort does this give you, especially in times of weakness? Psalm 18:39; Psalm 28:7-8; II Cor. 12:9-10; Phil. 4:13; Rev. 5:12; 12:10.

6. (a) If you could have anything your heart desires, what would it be? (b) How does it compare to Psalm 84:2 and 84:10?

7. (a) As a pilgrim on this earth, would you say that your longing is for heaven and for God? (b) Does your Heavenly Home occupy your thoughts? (c) How can we become more "heavenly" minded? See Colossians 3:1-4.

8. What would be your prayer request after meditating on Psalm 84? Please write it down to share with your group.

The Prayer of a Burdened Man

1. (a) Read Numbers 11:10-16. What is Moses' complaining about to the Lord in this prayer? (b) What has happened to bring him to the point according to Numbers 11:1-10? (c) Read the rest of Numbers 11 and note how the Lord answered Moses' prayer.

2. Memorize Numbers 11:10.

3. (a) Who else was burdened with people in his life according to Psalm 55? (b) What were his complaints? (c) What was his solution to the problems and the difficult people in his life?

4. (a) Read Psalm 106 and note all the rebellious acts of the children of Israel. (b) Even though God answered their requests for meat and other things, what happened to their soul according to verse 15? (c) What principle(s) can you glean for your own personal prayer life from Psalm 106:15? (d) What should we do when life is overwhelming, and people and circumstances are a burden? See Psalm 27:14; Psalm 37:5; Psalm 56:3-4; Matthew 6:25; Philippians 4:6-7.

5. (a) Who else asked the Lord to kill them besides Moses according to 1 Kings 19, Job 6:8-10, and Jonah 4? (b) What advice did God give to each of these individuals? (For the answer to Job read Job 40:1-7).

6. (a) Who else in Scripture was burdened with people and ministry according to 2 Corinthians 11:28-29? (b) What was his response to these burdens in 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10? (c) How does his attitude compare to Moses' attitude? (d) What advice would you give to Moses based on the Scriptures?

7. What are the burdens which you are carrying this day? What have you done about them? What is your prayer to the Lord, the Great Burden Bearer?

1. (a) Read Judges 11:29-40. Who made a vow and what was the vow he made? (b) Who else made a vow and what were the results according to Genesis 28:20-22; 1 Samuel 1:10-11; Jonah 1:16-17? (you may have to read further to see results)

2. Memorize Ecclesiastes 5:4-5.

3. (a) What are the guidelines for making vows for men, women—married or unmarried, and widows according to Numbers 30? (b) Do you think we should still follow this today? Support your answer with Scripture.

4. (a) Judges 11:35 mentions Jephthah tearing his clothes upon seeing his daughter when returning from battle. (b) Who else tore their clothes and why according to Genesis 37:29,34; 44:13; Joshua 7:6; Esther 4:1; Job 1:20; 2:12 (c) What would tearing one's clothes indicate? (d) In what ways would Jephthah's fulfillment of his vow bring him low as mentioned in verse 35? (e) What ways do we show our grief?

5. (a) How do you reconcile Genesis 22:1-2 with Deuteronomy 12:31?

6. (a) Are you in the habit of making rash vows in your prayers? (b) Have you made a vow to God which you did not fulfill? (Private question) What is the danger of making rash vows according to Ecclesiastes 5:4-7, Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12.

7. What is your prayer request after considering this lesson?

Are You Fit to Worship?

1. Read Psalm 15 along with Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount). Write down all the similarities that you see.
2. Memorize Psalm 15:1-2.
3. Most scholars believe that Psalm 15 was written after David had brought the ark to Jerusalem. Read 2 Samuel 6 and write down any thoughts you have as to why the bringing up of the ark might have prompted David to write Psalm 15.
4. What are the six things that the Lord hates according to Proverbs 6:16-19? How does this compare to Psalm 15?
5. What do the following verses say about our speech? Proverbs 10:31; 12:18; 15:2; 15:4; 17:4; 17:20; 18:21; 21:6; 21:23; 25:23; 26:28; 31:26. Write a summary statement.
6. Gossip and slander are sins that the Lord does not look lightly upon. Reflect on your speech this past week. How are you doing? Would others consider you a woman who gossips, slanders, criticizes? (If you're brave enough, ask your husband, children, or best friend.)
7. Prayerfully consider the characteristics in Psalm 15 of one who is worthy to worship God. Write a prayer request to the Lord asking Him to help you in those areas of weakness.

(Please look over question 6 and 7 first)

1. Read Philippians chapter one and write down all the verses that could be used for prayers for others.
2. Memorize Philippians 1:9-10 or 11.
3. Summarize Paul's prayer request for the Philippians (vs. 9-11) in your own words.
4. Read Daniel chapter 1. (a) What was Daniel's decision regarding the king's food and wine, and how did he handle the situation? (b) How did Daniel and his three friends compare in wisdom and understanding to the magicians and conjurers? (c) What principles do you see for your own life regarding "approving those things that are excellent, and being sincere and without offense till the day of Christ?"
5. Read Paul's prayer for the Colossians (1:9-14) and his prayer for the Philippians (1:9-11) In what ways are these prayers similar and in what ways are they different?
6. One of Paul's prayers for the Philippians is that they would be "without offense" as in KJV means, "not cause others to stumble." - (KJV). Read Romans 14 where Paul gives specifics on the importance of not causing others to stumble. (a) Write down some principles as well as questions you might ask yourself before deciding to proceed in a "gray area."
7. Pray Paul's prayer for the Philippians (1:9-11) for yourself and others throughout the week. (a) What blessings did you receive this week from praying this prayer?
8. Examine your prayers. (a) Do you pray from a sense of duty, or are you compelled to pray? (b) Do you pray infrequently or briefly? (c) Do your prayers center on your own needs or the needs of others? (d) Do you pray for the spiritual maturity of others, or do your prayers mainly consist of earthly needs?
9. (a) Which of Paul's requests for the Philippians would you like to have in your own life? (b) Write your request down to share with your prayer partner.

Do You Hear God's Voice in the Storm?

1. (a) What words or phrases are repeated in Psalm 29? (b) What is the significance of these?

2. Memorize Job 37:5-6.

3. (a) Locate on a map all the locations David mentions in Psalm 29. (Sirion is another name for Mt. Hermon) (b) Would all these be visible from one location? (c) What are the "many waters" David refers to in Psalm 29:3? Locate that on a map as well.

4. (a) God's voice speaks in many ways through the thunder and lightning. What is the setting for "His voice" to speak in the following verses? Exodus 9:27-35; Exodus 19:14-16; I Samuel 7:9-10; John 12:28-29; Revelation 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18; 19:6. (b) What does this teach you about the ways God speaks through thunder and lightning?

5. (a) How does Elihu depict God's greatness in the weather according to Job 37? (b) How does this compare with Psalm 29?

6. (a) What comfort from Psalm 29 could you give to anyone who is frightened during a storm? (Even yourself!)

7. (a) What "storm of life" are you facing which is causing you to be fearful? (b) What comfort do you take in this Psalm? (c) In what ways will you apply it to your situation?

8. Write a praise to the Lord for His majestic power in nature, along with a prayer request based on question seven.

1. Read John 14:1-17. In this passage, Jesus was trying to comfort His disciples, His friends. What was causing their distress at this time? (a) How would verses 13-14 be a comfort?
2. Memorize John 14:13-14.
3. The names that God uses for Himself are usually associated with an attribute of God. Which attributes of God do you find described in the following? Proverbs 18:10; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 45:5; Matthew 6:9; John 1:1; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 8:15; Revelation 1:8.
4. Of all the names that God reveals to us through scripture, which name does Jesus use when teaching the model prayer, Matthew 6:9-13? (a) In what sense is God a Father? Zephaniah 3:17; Malachi 2:10; Acts 17:28; Ephesians 1:4; Galatians 4:5. (a) In what way is this significant to your prayer life?
5. Consider the wisdom of God: Job 12:13; Proverbs 3:19; Jeremiah 10:12; Romans 16:27; Ephesians 1:7-9. (a) Does this knowledge about God influence your prayers? (b) How?
6. The third commandment given by God is: "You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. (Exodus 20:7) (a) What does this mean? (b) Is it the same as, or complimentary to, the commands in: Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23: 21-23; Matthew 5:33.
7. Considering the cares you are carrying at this time in your life, which name(s)/attribute(s) of God currently comforts you most? Write a prayer of thanksgiving for that/those works in your life.

1. Read Psalm 103 and list all the blessings of knowing God.

2. Memorize Psalm 103:1-2.

3. (a) How did (or does) God show His righteousness to the oppressed in the following verses? Judges 6:8-9; 2 Kings 13:1-5; 2 Kings 13:22-23; Psalm 9:9; Psalm 146:7-9. (b) What hope do these verses give if you ever find yourself in that condition?

4. (a) Read the account of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. (b) What did the younger son do? (c) What was the father's response in the end? (d) How does this compare to Psalm 103:13? (e) What comfort does this give you when you are seeking forgiveness from your heavenly Father?

5. (a) David says in Psalm 103 that man is like grass and like flowers. Who else says the same thing? See Isaiah 40:6-8, James 1:10-12; I Peter 1:24-25. (b) What lasts forever according to these previous verses? (c) What is man likened to in James 4:14, Job 7:7 and Psalm 102:3? (d) In considering how short life is, what should we be investing our time in?

6. This week, purpose to spend some time blessing the Lord with no intercession, or confession. Come prepared to share what you learned.

7. Looking back at question one, what are some things you can praise and thank God for? Please list at least 10. Write them down to share with your group.

1. Read Paul's prayer in 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 and then rewrite it in your own words.
2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 3:12.
3. (a) Read over the following prayers of the apostle Paul and write down which one is your favorite and why. Romans 15: 5-6,13; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Philemon 4-6. (b) Pray your favorite prayer for either yourself or someone else. (c) What are some of the benefits of praying the Word of God when we pray?
4. (a) Paul prays that the church would increase and abound in their love toward each other in 1 Thessalonians 3:12. What are some ways in which we can do that according to the following passages: Matthew 7:12; Matthew 22:39; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:13-15; Galatians 5:22-26; Philippians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 1 John 3:11-18. (b) What are some practical ways that we can increase in our love toward others?
5. (a) Why is it important according to 1 Corinthians 3:9-17, Hebrews 12:14 and 1 John 2:28 that we are found blameless when the Lord returns? (b) What will happen to those who are not found blameless when the Lord returns according to Revelation 21:1-8? (c) How do these passages motivate you to be blameless?
6. (a) Paul reminds the church in 1 Thessalonians 3:13 and also in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 that the Lord is coming. According to the passage in 2 Thessalonians what are some things that have to happen first before the Lord comes? (b) Using any other study helps that you might have access to, (internet has helps too!), find out what this all means, and write down what you find.
7. As you reflect on this lesson, what has the Lord impressed upon your heart? Please put it in the form of a prayer request.

1. (a) Read Psalm 101 and make note of the times in which the Psalmist says he will do something as well as what he mentions he will do. (b) Would you say you have the same determination the Psalmist has to do what is right?

2. Memorize Psalm 101:2.

3. (a) Why do you think David says in verse 4 “I will not know a wicked person”? (b) What is the danger of associating with the wicked according to Psalm 119:115; Proverbs 22:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16. (c) How do we train our children to avoid friends that will influence them for evil?

4. (a) David says that the faithful will be the ones who will dwell with him. What does God say about faithfulness in Luke 16:11-13; 19:17; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:2; Revelation 2:10 and Revelation 17:14. (b) How do these verses help you to understand why King David would only want faithful people serving him? (c) How should believers manifest faithfulness?

5. (a) In thinking over King David’s life, which vows from Psalm 101 did he keep and which ones did he break? (b) What does this teach you about the importance of making vows? (See Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)

6. (a) How do you walk in your house with a perfect heart? (b) How can you teach your children to do the same? (c) What do you usually do when no one else is around? (d) Is it an activity that Christ would be pleased with?

7. (a) David says that he will set no wicked thing before his eyes. As a 21st century Christian, how do you handle inappropriate television and media? (b) How do you guard the eyes of your children?

8. What vow in Psalm 101 is most difficult for you to adhere to? Write a request to share with your group.

1. Read Luke chapter 23 for context. Read Luke 23:34 in different versions.
2. Memorize Luke 23:34.
3. In Luke 23:34 who is Jesus talking to? In Luke 23:34 who is Jesus talking about?
4. Read the life and death of Samson in Judges 13-16 note the similarities and the differences in Samson and Jesus.
5. Read Psalm 22. How is David's prayer in Psalm 22:18 similar to Luke 23:34?
6. Read Acts 7:54-60. How is Stephen's prayer similar to Luke 23?
7. Read The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:7-14. This week, spend some time asking God to forgive you. Spend some time asking God to forgive those who trespass against you, especially those who do not know what they are doing.

1. (a) Read Psalm 118. What are the Psalmist's attitudes during his time of distress? (b) Are these your attitudes when going through a distressing time? (c) According to Psalm 118, how do you think the Psalmist was able to have those attitudes?
2. Memorize Psalm 118:24.
3. (a) Psalm 118 was perhaps written during the time of Ezra, and could be the song mentioned in Ezra 3:11. What things do you see in Ezra chapter three that would coincide with Psalm 118? (b) Why was Ezra written?
4. (a) The Psalmist says in Psalm 118:6 that he will not be afraid of man. Why should we have no fear of man according to Isaiah 51:11-13; Jeremiah 20:10-13; Matthew 10:28 and Romans 8:31-39? (b) Whom should we fear and why?
5. (a) Read Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:10-11; Ephesians 2:20-22, and 1 Peter 2:4-8. What do these verses have in common? (b) Who is the chief cornerstone? (c) Why do you think this truth is mentioned in Psalm 118:22, 23?
6. (a) Recall a time when you put your trust in man above God. What was the result and what did you learn? (b) Recall a time when you put your trust in God above man? What was the result and what did you learn?
7. (a) Looking back over your life, what has been your most difficult day? (b) Were you able to say "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it?" (c) If not, what things can you begin to do now that would enable you to say that if God allowed another very difficult day in your future? (See Psalm 112:7)
8. What difficulty are you going through this day? Take one verse from Psalm 118 and write a prayer request for yourself that will help you as you face this difficulty.

1. Read Colossians 1:9-14. (a) What does Paul pray for the Colossian believers? (b) Do you see any significance of these prayers, especially in light of the heresy that had crept into the church?
2. Compare and contrast Paul's prayer for the Colossians with his prayer for the Ephesians. (See Colossians 1:9-14 and Ephesians 1:15-21.) (a) What things do you see that are the same? (b) What things are different?
3. Paul prays that the Colossian believers would be "fruitful in every good work." (a) What are the conditions of a fruitful life according to John 15:3-4, and 10? (b) Is it necessary that a believer bear fruit? See Mt. 7:16-20. (c) How much fruit should we bear? See John 15:8. (d) What causes one to be unfruitful? See Matthew 13:22.
4. (a) What are some types of fruit we should be producing? See Proverbs 12:14; Proverbs 31:31; Isaiah 57:19; Jeremiah 6:19; Jeremiah 17:10; Matthew 3:8; Romans 1:13; Galatians 5:22-23 and Hebrews 13:15. (b) Are you producing these fruits?
5. Paul prays that the Colossian believers "might walk worthy of the Lord..." (a) What ways are we as believers to walk according to the following verses? Romans 13:13; I Corinthians 7:17; II Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 2:10; 4:1-3, 17-32; 5:2, 8, 15 and III John 3-4. (b) Why are we to walk in those ways? (c) What attitudes should accompany our walk?
6. (a) How do you think we as believers are "filled with knowledge?" (b) What is our responsibility?
7. What are the benefits of praying Scripture for yourself and others? Spend some time this week praying Paul's prayer for someone.
8. Choose one element of Paul's prayer that you would like to see more evident in your own life. Write it down in the form of a prayer request.

1. Read Colossians 1:9-14, and then rewrite Paul's prayer for the Colossians in your own words.

2. Compare Paul's prayer for the Colossians (1:9-14) with Paul's prayer for the Philippians (1:9-11).
(a) What do you notice that is different? (b) What things are the same?

3. (a) According to the following verses, what was your life like before you became a Christian? See Romans 1:18; 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1; I John 5:19. (b) However, what happened at the moment you were saved? See Romans 6:22; II Cor. 5:17; Ephesians 2:5. (c) What do you now possess? See Romans 8:16-17 and II Cor. 5:21.

4. Read Leviticus chapter 16. (a) What kind of preparation had to be made for the Day of Atonement? (b) What animals were used? (c) What was done to them? (d) What specifically would happen to the scapegoat? (e) What did this represent? See Hebrews chapter 9 for additional help.

5. (a) What does having your sins forgiven mean to you? (b) How has it changed the way you live?

6. Ask God for an opportunity this week to share with someone how they can know the blessings of sins forgiven. Come prepared to share with us the results.

7. Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the new life you have in Christ.

1. (a) What does Scripture tell us about Mary? Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26-27; Luke 1:36 (b) What does it tell us about Joseph? Luke 1:26-27; Luke 2:1-5; Matthew 1:18-25 (c) What does it tell us about Mary and Joseph? Leviticus 12:8; Luke 2:22-24.

2. Memorize Luke 1:46-47.

3. (a) What did Simeon mean when he told Mary “(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also)”? Luke 2:25-35.

4. (a) Read Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17; and Matthew 19:26. What does it mean to say that nothing is too hard for God?

5. (a) Read Luke 1:46-55 again. How does this passage express Mary’s faith? (b) What did she believe about God?

6. (a) In Mary’s prayer of praise, she exalts the Lord because “He has done great things for me” Luke 1:49. Name 3 of those great things. (b) Name 3 (or more) of the great things the Lord has done for you.

7. Mary’s faith was evident because she was familiar with and believed God’s promise of the coming Savior. Does your faith help you to cling to the promises of God? Are you daily trusting in His word even in difficult and seemingly insurmountable circumstances?

8. Come prepared to share your prayer for increased faith in the promises of God. “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24

1. (a) Read John 17 and write down all the petitions that are in the Lord's Prayer to the Father. (b) How do these compare to the petitions that are in your prayers?
2. Memorize John 17:1.
3. Compare the Lord's Prayer in John 17 to the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, listing the similarities and the differences.
4. (a) What do you learn from Jesus' posture of lifting His eyes to heaven to pray? (b) Look up the following verses to see who prayed and what their posture was in prayer? (It may be helpful to search the surrounding verses to discover who is praying.) Numbers 16:20-22; 1 Kings 19:1-4; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3; Psalm 4:4; 134:2; Daniel 6:10; Matthew 26:39; Mark 11:25; Luke 22:41; John 11:41; 1 Timothy 2:8. (c) What do these verses teach you about praying? (d) Are you judgmental of people whose posture in prayer differs from yours? (e) In what unusual postures and/or places have you prayed?
5. (a) Read the following verses and write down when, where, why and for what or whom Jesus prayed. (If it is stated.) Matthew 11:25-27; Matthew 27:46; Mark 1:35; Mark 6:45-46; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 5:16; Luke 6:12-13; Luke 9:18; Luke 9:28-29; Luke 23:34, 46; John 11:41-44; John 12:26-29. (b) What things have you prayed for this week? (c) Why is it necessary for us as finite creatures to pray?
6. Jesus says in John 17:4 that He has finished the work which God gave Him to do. (a) What work has God called you personally to do? (b) What work have you neglected that would cause you to have regrets if this were your last day (i.e., making restitution, sharing the gospel with one who is lost, etc.)?
7. Jesus says in John 17:4 that He has glorified God while He was on the earth. (a) How did Christ bring glory to God while on earth? Prove your answer from the Word. (b) In what ways is your life bringing glory to God? (c) In what areas of your life are you not bringing glory to God? (d) How will you work on those? Why not find someone who will pray for you and hold you accountable in those areas?
8. (a) What are the strengths and weaknesses of your own prayer life? (b) What changes would you like to see as a result of studying the high priestly prayer in the next few lessons? Write down your answer in the form of a prayer request.

1. Read John 17 out loud. (a) What elements of Jesus' prayer are missing from your own prayer life? (b) What are the words and phrases that are repeated and what is the significance of these?
2. Memorize John 17:15.
3. Christ says in John 17:9 "I do not pray for the world." (a) For whom are the following prayers given? Matthew 5:44; Luke 23:34; John 17:20; and 1 Timothy 2:1-4? (b) How do these verses reconcile with John 17:9?
4. In John 17:10 Christ mentions that the disciples glorified Him. In what ways did the disciples bring glory to the Lord during His earthly ministry? Share some thoughts *backed up* with scripture.
5. (a) What do the following verses say about the importance of unity among the brethren? Read Psalm 133; Romans 15:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:12-27; Philippians 2:1-4. (b) How do these verses help you to understand Christ's request for the eleven in John 17:11? (c) In what practical ways can we strive to protect the unity in the body of Christ? (d) Do others characterize you as a woman who gets along with others in the body of Christ? Are you causing divisions, stirring up strife, criticizing others or those in leadership? (These are serious sins that the Lord does not look upon lightly.)
6. Jesus does not desire that the disciples be taken out of the world (see John 17:15). (a) Read the following passages and discover who prayed to be taken out of the world and why. Numbers 11:10-15; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Jonah 4. (b) What do these verses teach you about the desire to be taken out of the world? (c) Why does Christ desire for us to be left in the world? See Ephesians 2:10 and Titus 2:14.
7. What do you think Christ meant in John 17:19 when He said, "I sanctify Myself"?
8. The disciples were sent out into the world for a purpose, a mission (see John 17:18). (a) Do you know what your purpose or mission is in the world? (b) Write it down in 20 words or less to share with your group.
9. Write out a prayer that includes petitions for someone else. Concentrate on asking God for their spiritual welfare, and try to avoid asking for physical needs. Be prepared to read them (or pray them) in class. These do not need to be lengthy. (Remember The High Priestly prayer is only about 3 minutes long.)

1. Read John 17 reflectively. (a) Write down any new truths you have learned as a result of this study. (b) What changes have you made as a result of this study?

2. Memorize John 17:24.

3. (a) What do the following verses say about the righteousness of God? Psalms 36:6; 45:6-7; 50:6; 71:19; Romans 1:16-17; 3:5-6; 3:21-26; James 1:20; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 3:7. (b) How do these verses help you to understand why Jesus calls God "righteous Father" in John 17:25?

4. Jesus says in John 17:24 that the Father loved Him before the foundation of the world. (a) According to the following verses, what else happened before the foundation of the world? Matthew 25:34; Luke 11:49-51; Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 4:3; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8. (b) What does this teach you about time past?

5. (a) Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 noting how Paul addressed the issue of disunity in the church. What should be our attitude(s)? (b) How *should* the body be functioning? See 1 Corinthians 12. (c) How do these verses relate to Christ's prayers for us in John 17:20-26?

6. (a) Do you pray for your children and/or grandchildren who are not yet born, and for future spouses for your children and/or grandchildren? (b) What types of prayers have you prayed for them? I encourage you to start including them in your prayers. (Jesus prayed for us before we were even born!)

7. What challenge have you come away with regarding your own prayer life after studying John 17? Please write it down in the form of a prayer request.