

Hannah's Story

1 Samuel 1

"Although it is the husband, and not the excellent wife, who sits among the elders (v. 23), the wife's works are known and appreciated in the gates, and therefore throughout the town. Give her of the fruit of her hands means that she should be given some personal reward for her excellent work. Let her works praise her—the excellent character and work of such a woman calls for public honor."¹

Faith-filled motherhood advances the gospel.

1. Hannah trusts the Lord for a child

"Hannah cast her whole burden upon the Lord and left her sense of frustration there at the altar. She did what she had come to the tabernacle to do. She had brought her case before the Lord. Now she was content to leave the matter in His hands. That demonstrates how genuine and patient her faith truly was. Scripture says, "Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you" (Ps. 55:22 NKJV). Some people will pray, "O God, here's my problem," and then leave His presence in complete doubt and frustration, still shouldering the same burden they originally brought before the Lord, not really trusting Him to sustain them. Hannah truly laid her troubles in the lap of the Lord, totally confident that He would answer her in accord for what was best for her. There's a real humility in that kind of faith..." John MacArthur²

¹ English Standard Version Study Bible note on Pr. 31:31.

² *Twelve Extraordinary Women*, 100-101.

2. Hannah entrusts her child to the Lord

"Precious, no doubt, are these little ones in your eyes; but if you love them, think often of their souls. No interest should weigh with you as much as their eternal interests... In every step you take about them, in every plan, and scheme, and arrangement that concerns them, do not leave out that mighty question, *How will this affect their souls?*"
J. C. Ryle³

"Despite our culture's pervasive hostility to the idea, motherhood is a calling from God, and no calling is higher. Although Scripture calls husbands to provide loving leadership to their homes, it's the incessant labors of mothers that, day by day, year by year, instill biblical values and inculcate a Christian culture in the home. Who can measure the long-term effects of nurturing helpless infants, supervising wandering toddlers, disciplining self-willed children, and counseling self-absorbed adolescents? Of family outings planned, traditions built, memories made, books read, songs sung, Scripture taught? No one shapes generations or fashions cultures more than mothers." Jeff Purswell⁴

"Christian families are the nurseries of the divine kingdom." Gardiner Spring⁵

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO HONORING MOM:

- Where have you seen Mom grow in godliness in the last year?
 - For younger kids: how is Mommy like Jesus?
- What is your favorite memory with Mom?
 - For younger kids: What does Mommy do that makes you happy?
- What are three words that describe the very best qualities of your Mom's character?
 - For younger kids: read Gal. 5:22-23. Which is of these describes Mommy?
- What are some ways you've observed Mom's love for the Savior?
- How has Mom helped you this past year to grow in your own faith?
- Kids, ask Mom to tell you about a glorious deed that she has seen God do.

NEXT WEEK: Engage Series #2: Salvation to the Ends of the Earth, Part 2

³ *Duties of Parents*, 8.

⁴ *Worldliness*, 159.

⁵ *Hints to Parents*, 63.