

1 Samuel 1–3 *Reading Guide*

Read 1 Samuel 1–3 for our next gathering. Think back on some of the tools we discussed for rightly understanding narrative as you read.

- Who are the main **characters** we meet in chapter 1–3? What do we learn about them? Make note of any important things the narrator says about each character. (Example: What is the narrator’s verdict about Eli’s sons in 2:12?)
 - Elkanah _____
 - Hannah _____
 - Peninah _____
 - Eli _____
 - Hophni/Phinehas _____
 - Samuel _____

Note the contrasts between characters: Two wives (Hannah and Peninah), Two types of parents (Hannah versus Eli), Two types of priests (Eli and sons versus Samuel)

- How has the story **plot** progressed from the beginning of chapter 1 to the end of chapter 3?
 - What is Hannah lacking in chapter 1 that she has received by chapter 2?
 - What is Eli’s status at the beginning of chapter 1 and how has that changed by the end of chapter 2?
 - What was rare in 3:1? Is it still rare by the end of chapter 3?
- How does our reading in 1 Samuel 1–3 move along God’s Big Story?
 - Remember what was going on before the story begins (See Judges 21:25 and Ruth 4:18–22)
 - We already know the book of Samuel is telling us the story of David. How does this session’s reading move us along in the David story?
 - How does our reading point us to Christ?

Each session, review Hannah’s prayer found in 2:1–10. What themes from her prayer do you see on display in this session’s reading?