

Live with the FAITH you want your kids to have.

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Somebody called me on the phone yesterday. I picked up, and they said, "Man, you sound horrible. You feel okay?" And I was like, "No, not really." But they reminded me before I came in on Sunday morning that my voice sounds horrible, so I just want to apologize in advance that you have to listen to my congested voice all morning long. But that's okay. We're going to get through it together.

As we start, I've got a little exercise that I want you to engage with me on. I want you to finish this sentence for me. You don't have to say it out loud, but I do want you to think for just a minute about what comes to your mind in this sentence: As long as I have blank, I'll be okay.

As long as I have - and then just fill in that blank with whatever it is that comes to your mind. As long as I have this, I'll be okay. Everything else could be going wrong. Things could be messed up in several areas of my life, but as long as I've got this, I'll be all right.

More than likely, you thought of something. You had a strong thought come into your mind. For some of you, you thought family. You thought, "You know what? As long as I've got my family, I'm going to be okay."

Others of you thought maybe it's my job, my business, or my career. You're thinking, "Hey, my personal life's a little bit shaky. It always has been. It always will be. But as long as my career keeps moving the way that I hope it is, I'm going to be good."

Maybe you thought of your health. You thought, "You know, other parts of my life I'm not too worried about, but as long as I'm strong, as long as I'm healthy, things are going to be okay."

We all thought of something, right? It's that one thing we can look to when life feels a little bit unstable. You reach for it. You think about it. All of a sudden, things sort of level out and your world starts to feel stable again.

Or maybe you've been in an ongoing season where everything is up in the air and everything feels a little unstable. You've been thinking, "If I could just hit this milestone, everything's going to be okay. If I just get to this job, this career, or this promotion, if I just get to this stage in my family life, maybe when we have kids, or if I just get this next rung on the ladder, things are going to be okay."

It's a natural thought, right? We think it for ourselves, and as parents, a lot of us think it for our kids as well. We've got a lot of parents in here who are working like crazy to make sure their kids are going to be okay, that their kids are going to have the right opportunities and the right friend groups, and that they're going to go to

the right schools. That list could go on and on and on.

That's good, right? Don't hear me saying this morning that fighting for your kids is bad. I know 100% that we do these things because we love our kids and we want them to be okay. We want them to be happy. But sometimes we have these moments where we fear they won't be, and that drives us to fight for our kids maybe just a little bit differently.

It's a good instinct, right? You've heard the term "mama bear." Maybe you've seen a mama bear. Maybe you are a mama bear. We're wired up to fight for our kids.

This morning, I want to encourage you and maybe even refocus you. As you fight for your kids, make sure that you're fighting for the right things. Here's the reality: The most important battle you fight for them is not going to be to give them something material. It's the battle you fight for your own heart and soul.

The best gift you can give them is not a material possession. It's not a great spot at the right school or a seat at the table with the right friends. It's you having a living, breathing, authentic faith in your Savior, Jesus Christ.

We're going to be in 1 Samuel chapter 1 this morning. If you've got your Bible, go ahead and join me there. It's in the Old Testament. Go to Psalms and turn left. Work your way back toward the front.

As we dive into 1 Samuel on this Mother's Day, we're going to be looking at an amazing mother. Her name is Hannah, and the Lord uses her, her faith, and her life to teach us so much. It's not because her life was perfect or because she was perfect. Not at all. But this morning, we're going to see that she modeled the kind of faith we want to pass on to our kids.

If you're taking notes today, here's our title and our main idea all wrapped up in one: Live with the faith you want your kids to have.

That's it. If you're only going to get one little thing this morning, that's what I want you to have: Live with the faith you want your kids to have.

It's a call to parents. It's a call to grandparents, aunts and uncles, and everyone in our church family, whether we have kids or not, because we all have the responsibility to raise those behind us up to know and love the Lord. Above all, let's fight for that with our kids. The best way to fight for that with our kids is to live with the faith we want them to have.

Hannah's Story

Look with me at 1 Samuel, starting in verse 1:

There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah, son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.

— 1 Samuel 1:1

Now, pause there. I'm going to admit that I spent most of my study time this week learning how to pronounce those names in that one sentence without embarrassing myself. I can boil that entire sentence down to a

much shorter phrase. Let me say it for you: There was a guy. That's what verse 1 says. There was this guy.

Verse 2:

He had two wives. The name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD.

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

— 1 Samuel 1:2-5

I want to pause here and talk for a minute about what's going on with Hannah. We learn at the beginning of this book that she's unable to have children. For many back then, and for many today, we understand this is a very painful place to be.

We're going to see in just a minute that if we were to ask her the same question I asked you guys, our opening question, she would say, "If I just had a son, everything would be okay."

That's where her heart is. She wants a child more than anything. She's devastated that she has no children.

Today, you might be in the same place she was then. You might share in her pain. If that is you, I want you specifically to know that I've been praying for you this week, that you would be encouraged by God's love for you through His Word, that you'd be encouraged by God's faithfulness and God's provision through His Word today, and that you'd be encouraged by the faith and strength of Hannah that we see on display as she walks down this road as well.

For Hannah in the ancient world, she knew that many of her contemporaries, the Jewish people around her, considered women like her with no kids to be - and this is a quote you can read from back then - "as good as dead."

For them, children were crucial for survival. It was an agricultural society. The bigger the family, the more crops and the more financial stability. There were a lot of practical reasons for these kids. They would have their kids work the land.

While I can't completely relate to that because we don't have a lot of land to work, I can understand. I have three sons myself, and when the youngest was finally old enough for me to have a three-man yard crew at the house, it completely changed the game. They're not working the land for me, but they're doing the yard, and it's close enough.

Having kids for them was a massive deal. The more kids a woman had, the more she was treated with honor. Those who had no kids, those who were barren like Hannah, were looked at with shame or even a sense of pity.

In fact, you'll read some biblical narratives in the Bible and see that barrenness is used as a metaphor for hopelessness.

I want you to feel that emotion for Hannah for a minute. She lives in this culture where everyone in the world around her is looking at her and her life as hopeless. They're looking at her and her life, in a lot of senses, as worthless and without a future.

Think about how that's got to be crushing for her - crushing to her heart, crushing to her soul, crushing to her mind and her emotions. That's where we find her this morning. She's completely beaten down by the storm.

But by the grace of God, we're going to see that she doesn't stay there. Look at verse 6:

And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.

And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?

— 1 Samuel 1:6-8

Pause there. Guys, don't talk like that, right? He understood that her heart was sad, but he completely missed it. He missed it, okay?

Look back at verse 6 for a minute. The word "provoke" is in there. I want you to circle that word or underline it and just know that we're going to come back to unpack it in a few minutes.

For now, just know that Hannah does not have a supportive situation in her life as she navigates the troubles of her life. Even her husband understands that she's sad, but you see with his words that he doesn't really get to the heart of it, and his words aren't really helpful to her.

Look at verse 9:

After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

And she vowed a vow and said, O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your servant and remember me and not forget Your servant, but will give to Your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.

— 1 Samuel 1:9-11

She's making a vow for her son before she has a son. It's a serious vow. You see several in the Old Testament. Samson would have taken the same vow. John the Baptist would have taken the same vow. That's what Hannah is praying ahead of time for her kid.

Verse 12:

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.

Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman.

And Eli said to her, How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.

But Hannah answered, No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. 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 all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.

Then Eli answered, Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to Him.

And she said, Let your servant find favor in your eyes. Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

— 1 Samuel 1:12-18

I want you to underline another phrase. It's in verse 9, and it's a key point in the passage. We're going to unpack it in a minute: "Hannah rose." Mark it. Know we're coming back to it.

We see that Hannah rose. She gets up before the Lord and she prays. Based on the response of Eli the priest, we know this is an honest, ugly-tears, ugly-cry-moment kind of prayer. So much so that the priest thinks she's been drinking.

But when he understands what's been going on, he blesses Hannah and sends her on her way. If you look in verse 18, it says she gets up and goes, and she's no longer sad.

Verse 19:

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, I have asked for him from the LORD.

— 1 Samuel 1:19-20

Now we're going to skip down to verse 26. Samuel has been born. He's old enough and weaned. He's at an age where he is old enough now for Hannah to leave him at the temple, and that's what she's going to do.

Look at verse 26. She's talking to Eli the priest again:

Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.

For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to Him.

Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD. And he worshiped the LORD there.

— 1 Samuel 1:26-28

This is remarkable, right? Her prayers are answered. She finally has a son, and what does she do? She does exactly what she promised the Lord. She gave him back to the Lord.

She set Samuel aside not to serve her, not to provide for her, not to work her land, and not to make her wealthy. She set him aside to serve the Lord.

This is an incredible story of God's faithfulness, God's provision, and God remembering His children. It's also a story of Hannah's faith. The faith of this mother, the faith of Hannah, is the faith that I pray we would pass on to our kids.

We can learn so much from Hannah's faith here, and I want to pull out four points this morning that are challenging to us. If we want to fight for our kids to know and love Jesus, these are four things we've got to do.

1. Get Up

The first one is very simple to say. It's a little bit more challenging to do. The first one is get up.

As we're fighting for our kids to know and love Jesus, we personally have to have the kind of faith that gets us up.

Look back at verse 9:

After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose.

— 1 Samuel 1:9

Her rival is provoking her. She's experiencing real pain and a real sense of hopelessness to the point where she's unable even to eat. Understand that this pain is real for her. She's crushed under the weight of her hopelessness, her sadness, her trials, and the persecution from her peers. People are just piling on.

Look at verse 6:

And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her.

— 1 Samuel 1:6

The word choice "provoke" in the text is a very creative use of the Hebrew language. Literally, the word that's translated into English as "provoke" here means "to thunder" or "to roar," like in a storm.

It's the kind of word, if you're writing ancient Hebrew, that you'd use to describe being stuck in the middle of a hurricane. You live in Houston. You've been stuck in a hurricane before, right? You've been in the middle of one at some point. How peaceful was it? Not very.

Daylight becomes dark. It's disorienting. The rain, the wind, everything is roaring around.

Not too long after Chelsea and I got married, we moved into our first house, and a hurricane hit. We're sitting in the house thinking, "This is crazy," just hearing everything that's going on.

At one point, we heard this pounding on our roof. We peeked outside, and massive sheets of shingles were lifting up and slamming down. So I did something she still gives me grief about. I got a ladder, and in the middle of the hurricane, I climbed onto the roof with a hammer and nails, thinking I was going to save some money or something.

I'm trying to nail down these sheets of shingles. The hammer slipped out of my hand. The ladder fell. Anyway, it was quite the thing. I voluntarily put myself in the middle of a storm. It was not peaceful. It was very violent and very disorienting.

That word, "thunder," "roar," or "provoke," is used for a reason. This is the only place in your Bible where that word is used to describe anything other than an actual storm.

Why? God wants us to see the intensity of Hannah's reality. This is a real storm. She's overwhelmed in her struggle. She's overwhelmed by grief. It's not just a passing moment. This is a storm.

In verse 9, what does she do? In the middle of the storm, she rose.

Again, this doesn't mean simply that she moved from a sitting position to a standing position. The word choice in the Hebrew text is painting a picture. When we say, "Hannah rose," it shows us decisive and resolved action.

Mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, in the middle of her storm, she decided. She made a choice. There's this internal shift that happened in her where she decided she wasn't going to let this storm keep her down anymore. She was going to get up and move toward the Lord.

Is that what your kids see in your life? When life knocks you down, do you stay down? Do you get numb? Do you get bitter? Do you get indecisive? Do you let the storms of life paralyze you, or do you get up and move toward the Lord?

Here's the truth: Your kids are going to face storms. They're going to face pain, disappointment, failure, and heartbreak. When that happens for them, the most powerful sermon you're ever going to preach to them isn't going to come from a stage. It's going to come from your kitchen table at 7:00 a.m., when everything's falling apart, but they watch you get up and open your Bible anyway.

It's going to come when they see you walk into a church on Sunday morning in the hard seasons instead of sleeping in. It's going to come when they hear you gather your family up and say, "Listen, I don't understand why this is happening to us. I don't understand why this is going on in our life, but I still trust in God."

The faith that sticks in your kids is the faith they watch you live in the hard moments.

Hannah didn't have a child yet. Nothing had changed, but she got up.

Get up.

The faith you model in your darkest moments is the faith that's going to stick with your kids.

What does getting up look like for you right now? Maybe for you it's as simple as telling your family, "Hey, things are hard right now. We're not going to handle it by falling apart. We're going to handle it by getting up

and leaning into God."

Get up. Move toward God. Let your kids see you moving toward the Lord.

Hannah got up, and she didn't just get up. Look at the chapter. She gets up with a purpose. She goes to the temple and she prays.

2. Pray

That brings us to our second point this morning. As we're fighting for the faith of our kids, what does that look like in us? We've got to pray.

Look at verse 10. She prayed to the Lord. Verse 15 says she's pouring her soul out before the Lord. Verse 16 says she's speaking to the Lord even with anxiety and great vexation.

Verse 10 says she was deeply distressed and she prayed. Verse 12 says she prayed for a long time. Verse 13 says she's speaking from her heart. Verse 16 says even when she's overcome by a storm of anxiety and vexation, she took these troubles before the Lord.

Eli the priest saw her and thought she was drunk. That's how intense her prayer life was.

This is not a tidy, composed dinner-table prayer. This is someone pouring out the full weight of her soul before God. She didn't just pray. She prayed where people could see, where one day her kids would be able to see.

She went to the house of God publicly, and she cried out. Eventually, her son Samuel is going to grow up knowing, "This is where Mom goes when life gets hard."

Let's be real. Life is going to be hard for me and for you as well. So can I ask you, what do your kids see you do when life gets hard?

We want to protect them from stress. I get it. It's understandable. But there's a difference between shielding your kids from adult problems and hiding from your kids that God is real and prayer is the way we talk to Him.

Do your kids hear you pray? Not just the polished dinner-table prayer. Let them hear you pray. Let them hear and see how you take your worries, your anxieties, and your storms to God.

When something scary happens in your family, let it be your first instinct to gather your kids up and say, "Let's go to the Lord in prayer." Then do it right then and there with them.

Set the example. Let them see in you as they grow up that prayer is not a last resort. It's a first response.

There's nothing better for the prayer lives of your kids than for them to see and hear you pray. That's a gift that will outlast anything else you're able to give them.

Hannah prays. What happens next in the story is the most surprising moment of the entire passage and, honestly, one of the most spiritually important moments in the book of 1 Samuel. There's a lot in there.

After Hannah prays, she gets up, and what? She gets up and she's not sad anymore.

3. Find Your Joy in the Lord

That's our third point. As we fight for our kids to know and love Jesus, as we fight for their faith, you and I, as moms, dads, and grandparents, have to find our joy in the Lord.

If we want them to have that kind of faith, we've got to find our joy in the Lord.

Verse 18 says:

Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

— 1 Samuel 1:18

Think for a minute. Why isn't she sad anymore?

You might read verse 18 and think, "Well, she ate something. Her problem the whole time was that she was just hungry. If she just would've eaten something..."

That's not it.

Remember, she's in a storm. It's intense. She couldn't sleep. She couldn't eat. Her prayer was so raw and so emotional that the priest thought she was drunk. Now she's up, walking away, and it says the sadness has left her face.

What's changed? Is she pregnant? No. Has her rival backed off? No. Does her husband understand women now and have the right words to share with her? No.

The storm is still there. The intense, raging, thundering, roaring storm has not changed.

Her heart has changed.

How did her heart change? We just read it together. She got before the Lord and laid it all out there. She found that God Himself was enough.

Go back to our question at the beginning. She understood that only one thing could fill in that blank in her life. She understood, "If I could just have God, everything will be okay."

It took a storm in her life to get her heart there. But when she got there, she realized that God Himself is enough. Her joy was no longer held hostage by her circumstances.

Now she wasn't saying, "If I just have a family, everything will be okay. If I just have a son, everything will be okay."

For you and me as well, it's not, "If I just get this job, this promotion, or this financial stability, everything will be okay. If my kids just do this or that, everything will be okay."

That's not it.

Parents, grandparents, church, and all of us who hope and pray that our kids will walk with the Lord, I want

you to hear me when I say: You cannot give your kids a joy that you do not have.

You can give them vacations. You can give them cars, iPhones, money, and experiences. You can wake up every morning and make the fancy pancakes with the smiley faces on them and all of that. You can give them so much.

But what they need more than all of that is to see that you have found your joy and happiness in your relationship with Jesus.

That's foundational. That's the kind of faith that makes a kid sit back and think, "Listen, whatever my parents have, I want that."

Find your joy in the Lord.

That doesn't mean pretending everything is fine all the time. Hannah wept here. She was honest about her pain. But she brought her pain to the right place, and she walked away changed.

That's the model. Your kids are watching where you go to find joy. Show them the source.

I want to be careful here because, as we read this, you might think, "Okay, if I just get my heart right before God, you're saying God will give me everything that I'm praying for."

No. That's not the point of this chapter.

Yes, Hannah gets pregnant and has a son, but this is not a formula. There are a lot of faithful, praying people who never get what they're asking God for.

The point is not that a right heart earns a blessing. It's that a right heart finds joy and peace before God.

Hannah's heart changed way before her circumstances did, and she had joy in the storm anyway. She understood that God is better than the things we ask Him for.

If you have God, you have everything. That's worth showing your kids.

Hannah got up. She prayed. Her heart is changed now. She has this inner joy and peace that comes from knowing the Lord. Then God gives her a son, Samuel, and what she does next is an incredible act of faith.

Look at verse 28:

Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.

— 1 Samuel 1:28

4. Steward Every Opportunity

That brings us to our final point this morning. We've got to steward every opportunity.

Here's what I mean: We're stewards of our kids.

God gave Hannah a son, and what does Hannah do? Hannah gives him right back. She makes this serious vow before God, and she dedicates him to a life of service before the Lord in the temple.

I want you to think for a minute about what Hannah did as she let go of her son. This is the one she's been crying out for. This is the one she fasted for. This is the one God miraculously gave her.

What does she do? She returns her son to the Lord.

Not just symbolically. This is not just a gesture. He's going to grow up in the temple, not in her home.

All the things that made having a son or child valuable in that culture, she's giving them away. The financial stability, the retirement plan, the ability to work the land, and the legacy - she surrendered every single one of those things to God.

The remarkable thing is that she did it with joy. She's not clenching her fist or gritting her teeth. Chapter 2 opens with this song of praise. We see that this isn't reluctant obedience. This is the overflowing worship of a woman whose heart is joyful before God because she found her sufficiency in God alone.

She knew the answer to the question. As long as she has God, everything is going to be okay.

She understood something, parents, that we need to understand as well. Her son was never really hers. Samuel belonged to the Lord.

Don't forget: We're stewards. We're responsible for our kids right now, but ultimately, they belong to Jesus.

That means the time you have with your kids is sacred and limited. The time you have with your kids is sacred and limited.

A mentor of mine once told me - he's a big basketball guy - that when he looks at his kids, he pictures a shot clock above their heads, slowly counting down, reminding him that his time with his kids in his home is sacred and limited. He's got to make the most of every opportunity.

Right now, if your kids are in your home or if you have access to your grandkids, are you pointing them to Jesus? Are you being intentional about their faith formation?

Not just their grades. I know you're intentional about their grades. I know you're on them about all that stuff.

Not just their sports. I know you're intentional about their sports.

Not just their social life. I know you're intentional about all of that stuff.

But their soul. Are you intentional about their soul and pointing them to Christ?

Make the most of every opportunity. Family dinners, bedtime, and those moments in the car when you've got the opportunity to have a conversation. Maybe even those hard conversations you know you need to have but you've been putting off.

These aren't interruptions in your life. These are the moments when you get to help your kids see that if they

just have Jesus, everything else is going to be okay.

Pick your moment this week. Lock it in now mentally. What are some moments this week when you're going to intentionally speak to your kids about Jesus?

We're going to answer to Jesus, by the way, for every moment we have with our kids. Here's what that means: Our primary goal as parents isn't for our kids to be in the top 10%, to make the team, to get married, or to have a great career.

Our primary goal as parents is for our kids to fall in love with a great, great God.

I promise you, this isn't going to happen just because you tell them to. You've got to live it out.

Parents, live this out. Grandparents, you've got to live this out. Church family, we have to live this out. We've got to walk with Jesus.

LifeWay is an organization that puts out a lot of Bible studies. A lot of things you've read have probably come from LifeWay. They did a study years ago that has always stuck with me. It showed that kids who have five adults in their lives in addition to their parents - let me say that again - kids who grow up with five adults in their lives, in addition to their parents, who know and love Jesus have a much greater chance of growing up to know and love Jesus themselves.

That means that just because you might not have kids of your own this morning, it doesn't mean you get to sit this one out. Every single one of us is called to play a role in helping our kids know and love Jesus.

We want them to grow up knowing the answer to the question: If I just have Jesus, I have all that I need.

We see why right here in this passage. We've looked at Hannah's faith, but think about all we learn from our God right here.

We have a God who cares about our storms and knows what's going on in our lives. We have a God who hears our prayers, a God who provides for our needs. We have a God who sends people to encourage us and bless us along the way when we're down.

We truly do have a God who is all that we need.

As we fight for our kids, let's fight by walking in faith ourselves so that they'll do the same. That's the sermon that's going to make the greatest impact in their lives.

It's not going to be one from me that's preached from a stage. It's the one you're going to preach every day with your life in front of the people who know you best.

Live with the faith you want your kids to have.

Would you bow with me this morning?

Just take a minute to go before the Lord, wherever you're at in the room. Kids, grandkids, no kids, or wherever you're at, just take a minute to thank the Lord for the blessing of the children in this church family, for the kids

who are coming up in the generation after us.

Thank God for them. Ask God to protect their hearts and help them walk with Him in a special and meaningful way.

For you this morning, again, regardless of your status, ask God to help you live with the faith you want those kids to have.

Maybe you're in a storm right now. Ask God to help you get up and move toward Him.

Maybe you're walking through something. Ask God to give you the words to pray.

Maybe you've been trying to find joy, peace, satisfaction, or contentment anywhere and everywhere but the Lord. Ask Him to help you understand that you don't need that other stuff. If you just have Him, that's all you need.

Ask Him to help you be a good steward of every opportunity. Your kids, your grandkids, the friends of your kids, opportunities you have to invest in families here in our church, the kids ministry of our church, the moms and dads of our church, and the other grandparents in our church - we all have opportunities to come alongside and help kids know and love Jesus.

It starts by living with the faith we want them to have.

It's possible you're here today and you feel like you've been running on empty. You've been trying to give your kids something you haven't found yourself. This is an invitation for you this morning: Come to the Lord.

If you haven't yet trusted Him as your Lord and Savior, that's your first step. In just a minute, we're going to stand and sing a closing song. As we do, we're going to have some pastors and prayer partners down here at the front.

If you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, if you've been looking for joy in the things of this world and realized you're not going to find it, I want to encourage you to come find that joy in Christ this morning.

Maybe you're walking through a storm and you want somebody to pray with you, over you, and for you in the midst of that storm. Maybe there's something else going on in your life altogether.

Whatever it is, just know we're going to have pastors and prayer partners here, and we'd love to pray with you.

God, we love You so much, and we thank You for Your Word. God, we thank You for what we learn about You here. God, You love us. You care for us. You provide for us.

God, we thank You for the faith that was on display in Hannah's life. I pray that we would live with that same faith and that we would pass it on to our kids, to our grandkids, to the kids in our church family, and to all You give us the opportunity to reach.

Lord, it's in Your name we pray. Amen.