

R  N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Eli"

FOCUS: to identify how Eli dishonored God and be challenged to live a God-honoring life in the coming week.

"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me." Malachi 2:2 (NIV)

1. Read the following passages to discover how God had honored Eli:
 - a. (1 Samuel 1:3)
 - b. (1 Samuel 1:25-28)
2. Record how God has honored you.
3. Read the following passages to discover how Eli had not honored God.
 - a. (1 Samuel 2:12)
 - b. (1 Samuel 2:13-16)
 - c. (1 Samuel 2:22)
 - d. (1 Samuel 2:22-25)
 - e. (1 Samuel 2:29)
 - f. (1 Samuel 3:13)
 - g. (1 Samuel 4:3-5)
4. Record how your current lifestyle could be dishonoring God.
5. God dishonored Eli because of his lack of supervision and discipline of his sons. Do you think God holds parents today to the same standard?
6. How did the Lord's promised judgment on Eli's household come to pass?
 - a. (1 Samuel 4:2, 10)
 - b. (1 Samuel 4:11, 17)
 - c. (1 Samuel 4:18)
 - d. (1 Samuel 4:19-21)
 - e. (1 Samuel 22:18-19)
7. What is the significance of Eli's grandsons name Ichabod? (4:19-21)
8. Why do people who dishonor God with their lifestyle ask "why" or blame God if tragedy strikes?
9. What can you do this week to bring honor to God?

CHETS TOP 5

Missions
Informational
Meetings
Chetumal, Mexico
12:15 p.m., FUEL Station
Trip dates are
July 31st - August 7th.

Rio
12:15 p.m., JOE's Place

South Africa
March 7th, 12:15 p.m.,
FUEL Station
Trip dates are mid
November, 2010

Buckets of Hope
Buckets must be turned
back in by March 14th.

Student THRIVE
Weekend
March 19th - 21st

Spring Forward
March 14th

Save the Date for
VBS
June 20th - 23rd



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Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:103-105

<u>March</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Proverbs</u>
1	Leviticus 17:1-19:10	Mark 6:1-20	28:6-9	6:30-31
2	Leviticus 19:11-20:27	Mark 6:21-46	29:1-6	6:32-33
3	Leviticus 21:1-22:33	Mark 6:47-7:16	29:7-11	6:34-35
4	Leviticus 23:1-24:23	Mark 7:17-37	30:1-6	7:1-3
5	Leviticus 25:1-55	Mark 8:1-21	30:7-12	7:4-5
6	Leviticus 26:1-46	Mark 8:22-9:1	31:1-8	7:6-8
7	Leviticus 27:1-34	Mark 9:2-29	31:9-18	7:9-12
8	Numbers 1:1-54	Mark 9:30-50	31:19-24	7:13-17

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

Hannah - Psalm 30:5

To see how God can bring hope and joy to life situations that seem to be devoid of both. To identify five Bible truths from this story that can be applied to their lives.

MONDAY - MARCH 1, 2010

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-7

1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite [a] from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. 6 And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

- Who is Elkanah married to?
- Why is polygamy sin? (Gen. 2:24)
- What do you think the pressures are in this relationship for Elkanah? Hannah? Peninnah?
- Why did Elkanah give Hannah double portions?
- Why was Hannah miserable?
- What unchangeable things are going on in your life? How do you view these things?

TUESDAY - MARCH 2, 2010

Read 1 Samuel 1:8-18

8 Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" 9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. [a] 10 In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. 11 And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." 12 As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine." 15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." 17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

- What questions did Hannah's husband ask her?
- Why was Hannah upset? (vs. 2, 6, 7)
- What vow does Hannah make?
- What did the priest "Eli" think as he watched Hannah?
- How did Hannah answer Eli?
- Why did Hannah leave no longer sad?
- When have you been disappointed and how did the Lord provide for you?

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 3, 2010

Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28

19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him." 21 When the man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow, 22 Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always." 23 "Do what seems best to you," Elkanah her husband told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. 24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, [c] an ephah [d] of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. 25 When they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli, 26 and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. 27 I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. 28 So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

- What did Hannah take to the house of the Lord?
- Hannah brought more than was required as a sacrifice to the Lord in fulfillment of her vow (Numbers 15:8-10) and she kept her vow to give her only son to the work of God. How committed are you to promises you have made to: Spouse? Children? Co-Workers? God?
- What in your life do you need to recommit to the Lord?

THURSDAY - MARCH 4, 2010

Read 1 Samuel 2: 1-11

1 Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn [a] is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. 2 "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. 3 "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. 4 "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. 5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. 6 "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. 7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. 8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; upon them he has set the world. 9 He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails; 10 those who oppose the LORD will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed." 11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.

- What does Hannah say in worship to her God?
- How are things reversed in verses 4-8?
- What is the difference in the way the word "strength" is used in verses 9 and 10?
- Are there areas of your life that you tend to trust in your own strength?
- What will you do to begin to trust in God's strength in those areas?

FRIDAY - MARCH 5, 2010

Read Psalm 30:1-5

1 I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. 2 O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. 3 O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. 4 Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. 5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

- What was David praising God for?
- What does verse 5 tell us about God's anger?
- What in your life has God changed from weeping into rejoicing?
- What areas in your life feel like "night" right now?
- Spend time praising God for the promise that this will only last for a while, then joy comes in the morning.