



WHAT'S IN THE GAP?

KEY SCRIPTURE | Mark 4:35–41

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Hannah was struggling with infertility. And if that wasn't enough, her husband's other wife, Peninnah, had children and continually used that fact to taunt and provoke her. Year after year, Hannah grieved quietly. The Bible says she was "deeply distressed" (1 Samuel 1:9) when she sat outside the temple and prayed, vowing to dedicate her son to God if only God would give her one.

Hannah trusted God despite her heartbreak. When God did bless her with a son—Samuel—she kept her promise by dedicating him back to the Lord. Samuel became a prophet, and God used him in some mighty ways. If Hannah had him without the struggle of infertility, she likely wouldn't have dedicated him to the Lord the way she did. And he may never have gone on to recognize and anoint David as king.

When we're in the middle of the storm, it's hard to see the way out. And sometimes it feels like there isn't one. Sometimes the rain keeps coming—the cancer isn't healed, the depression doesn't lift, the baby never comes. But that doesn't mean we can't trust Jesus. He's telling a story that's way bigger than us, and it's for our benefit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at your notes from Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Share about a time you were caught in a storm.
3. Read Mark 4:35–41. Compare and contrast how Jesus and the disciples responded to the storm. OR If the disciples had trusted Jesus instead of freaking out, how would the story change?
4. Think about other people in the Bible or in your own life who have experienced storms. How did they respond?
5. Have you ever felt like Jesus was sleeping through a storm in your life? What did you do?
6. Does knowing that storms test us, not God change how you view them?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Trust Jesus this week by taking your storms to Him in prayer.

