

RESPONSE

WEEK 5 I Acknowledge

ICEBREAKER

What was the first prayer you learned to pray? - and who instructed you?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **1 Samuel 2**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- John Maxwell says, "Most of our spiritual problems are rooted in a false conception of who God is."

Knowing who God is has everything to do with how you respond to Him. What comes to mind when you think about God? Share your answer and discuss.

- 1 Samuel 1:10 says, "Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the Lord." Now after God answering her prayer and giving her a son, we find Hannah in prayer rejoicing in the Lord in 1 Samuel 2 — "Then Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the Lord!"

Think of a time that your prayer was answered exactly as you prayed? As well as giving thanks for the blessing, did you remember to rejoice in the Lord who answered your prayer?

- Read Psalm 100

Verse 3 says, "Acknowledge the Lord is God." What else does this Psalm say about how God relates to us?

- Joy is not the absence of problems, but the presence of God. Nehemiah 8:10 states, "Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

What causes you to be weak and dejected?

If you know the joy of the Lord is your strength what strategies can you use from Hannah's example the next time you feel weak or dejected?

- Prayer is recognizing the Lord's strength and our weakness. Prayer always recognizes that it all depends upon Him and not us.

Give an example of a time you went to God in prayer recognizing your weakness and His strength? How did God answer your prayer?

- Very often the more we have the more we want and the less grateful we can be. Sometimes we come to believe that we deserve things, then believe we need them and then we begin to demand them. Hannah prayed a prayer of anguish followed by a prayer filled with rejoicing.

Take some time and write down 2-3 items per section that your are grateful for from the Lord.

Personal Blessings: _____

Family Blessings: _____

Financial Blessings: _____

Friendship Blessings: _____

Possession Blessings: _____

Take some time and write down some things that don't look like blessings to you but you acknowledge that God is in control — and He is teaching you something.

Share what you feel comfortable sharing with your group about your blessings as well as things you are going through. Pray together as a group thanking God for both.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What is Jesus saying? Where is He asking you to trust Him? Where is He encouraging you these days? Where are you feeling His love in your life? What areas in your lifestyle and a habits is He speaking to you about changing?

What am I doing in RESPONSE?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

This challenge is a personal prayer growth challenge. When you are in prayer, the challenge is to "Acknowledge the Lord is God." This goes back to rejoicing in the Lord for who He is - and not what He does for us. The challenge is to "rejoice in the Lord" in our words lifted in prayer. Each day this week, make time to pray and praise Him for who He is and not only for what he does.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS