

NOTES

SERIES TAKEAWAY

A champion generation isn't raised by accident. It's formed in a house, by an ear that listens, a mouth that tells the truth, and a hand that lets go at the right time.



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OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the people who have shaped our lives and helped us follow You. As we explore Hannah and Eli's households, give us wisdom to recognise what forms our faith, courage to address what needs to change, and grace to invest in the next generation. In Jesus' name, amen.

OPENING QUESTION_(OPTIONAL)

Who is someone who helped shape the person you are today, and what is one thing they taught you that has stayed with you?

WORD

24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. 27 For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.”

And he worshipped the Lord there.

1 Samuel 1:24-28

12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. 13 The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, 14 and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw.” 16 And if the man said to him, “Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish,” he would say, “No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force.” 17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

1 Samuel 2:12-17

For more depth you can also read

1 Samuel 1:10–11, 24–28; 2:12–17, 18–21, 22–26 (ESV).

MAIN REFLECTION POINTS

1. Faith is formed at home.

Hannah prayed for Samuel, dedicated him to God, and continued to care for him even after he began serving at the tabernacle. Her faith shaped the way she raised her son. This reminds us that following Jesus is not just something we learn at church. It is also formed through the example, prayers, and everyday choices of the people around us.

2. Being around God is not the same as knowing God.

Eli's sons worked in the house of the Lord, yet their actions dishonoured Him. Samuel, by contrast, grew in his service to God. We can attend church, grow up in a Christian family, or serve on a ministry team without developing our own relationship with Jesus. God invites each of us to move beyond knowing about Him to knowing Him personally.

3. Love requires both example and correction.

Eli challenged his sons about their behaviour, but he failed to restrain them. His story reminds us that words alone are not always enough. Whether we are parents, mentors, or friends, we help others grow through our example, honest conversations, clear boundaries, and loving correction. We cannot choose faith for someone else, but we can help them learn what it means to follow Jesus.

Take a few quiet moments to reflect on this question:

Who has God entrusted to my influence, and what is one intentional step I can take to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus?

It might mean beginning a regular conversation with your child, mentoring a younger believer, addressing something you have been avoiding, or making more room to pray for someone you love.

Invite everyone to identify one person and one practical step they will take this week. Allow people to respond privately if they prefer.

For those who grew up in church or ministry families, offer a further moment of reflection: Is my faith simply part of the environment I grew up in, or am I personally choosing to follow Jesus? Give people space to consider this honestly, without pressure to share publicly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Formation begins at home. Hannah's influence on Samuel started before he entered the tabernacle and continued even after she entrusted him to Eli. Who played a significant role in forming your faith, and what did they do that made a lasting difference?

The little robe. Hannah's annual gift was a small but tangible expression of her ongoing love and investment in Samuel. What might your own version of the little robe look like as you invest in your children, younger believers, or people you disciple?

Faith beyond familiarity. Hophni and Phinehas were surrounded by the things of God but did not know the Lord. How can someone grow up in church or serve in ministry without developing a genuine relationship with Jesus? What helps us move from inherited faith to personally owned faith?

Correction that leads to change. Eli confronted his sons, but his words did not produce the change that was needed. What is the difference between expressing disapproval and taking meaningful responsibility for someone's growth? How can we offer correction that is both loving and effective?

Consecration and surrender. Hannah's commitment to Samuel involved entrusting someone precious to God's purposes. What might costly faithfulness look like for us today, particularly when we are investing in the next generation?

Our responsibility as a community. The formation of a champion generation is not the responsibility of parents alone. How can our LifeGroup and church community help young people develop a personal faith, grow in character, and learn to hear and follow God for themselves?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the people who have invested in us and helped us know You. Forgive us for the times we have mistaken familiarity with the things of God for genuine intimacy with You. Teach us to cultivate a faith that is personal, resilient, and centred on Jesus.

Give parents, mentors, and spiritual leaders the wisdom to form others through prayer, example, and faithful investment. Give us courage to have difficult conversations when needed, and grace to correct without condemnation. Help us build homes and communities where the next generation can encounter You, learn to recognise Your voice, and choose to follow You for themselves.

May our influence point people beyond ourselves to Jesus. Raise up a generation that knows You and lives faithfully for Your purposes. In Jesus' name, amen.