

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## BLIND SPOTS

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to [southeastchristian.org](http://southeastchristian.org) to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

Life's discouragements can often lead us to despair. Regardless of whether or not our situations change, we can respond to discouragement through worship and surrender to God.

Discouragement happens when you wish things would be different, but you can't do anything about it. What is it about situations like these that causes us to despair? Think of a time in your life when you were discouraged. What was it that you couldn't change? How did that affect you?

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-11. What reasons did Hannah have to feel discouraged? How did this discouragement affect her physically, mentally, and spiritually? How does discouragement affect you in similar ways? How is your experience with discouragement different?

What did Elkanah say to try and encourage his wife? How were his words unhelpful? What are some unhelpful ways others try to help us deal with our discouragements? In your experience, what are some words/gestures that are helpful for those experiencing discouragement?

Kyle said, "Discouragement often tries to convince you that God is against you." How have you experienced this in your own life? What are some biblical promises/truths you can hold onto in those moments?

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10. As you read through Hannah's song, highlight all the phrases she uses to describe God's character and power. How can remembering these qualities of God help us when we struggle with discouragement?

In the midst of her discouragement, Hannah's posture before God was one of surrender and worship. How can adopting this kind of attitude help us face discouragement? What are the challenges (particularly during times of discouragement) that keep us from responding to God in this way?