

PVC SMALL GROUPS

# UNCOMMON

*uncommon*

FAITHFULNESS • STRENGTH • COURAGE

## WEEK 1: Uncommon Faith (Hannah)

### CONNECT

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This week we launch a three-week series looking women of the Bible who showed themselves to be UNCOMMON in a God honoring way.

- Do you have any uncommon talents, traits, or abilities? If you can, share one with the group.

### DISCOVER

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There are several inspiring stories about women who struggled to conceive and bear a child and how they were later blessed with a child. Hannah's story is one that is noticeable because of the uncommon measure of faith with which she believed God for a son, and what she did when she received that gift.

In Hannah's time, a barren woman was in a desperate situation should her husband die. They were sometimes forced into slavery or prostitution to survive. Women then, not only had to contend with the stigma of being unable to have children, but their very survival was at stake. In Hannah's case the ridicule came from within the family at the hands of Peninnah, a second wife that Elkanah had taken (This wasn't uncommon during this time, and we aren't told anything about the circumstances of that relationship).

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 and answer a few questions together.

- What do you think was the most difficult part of not having a son for Hannah?
- How would Hannah have likely taken Elkanah's comment in verse 8?
- What is "Uncommon" about Hannah's prayer for a son (verses 9-11)? Could you do the same with your child?
- What could Hannah have been thinking when, after begging for a son, she gave him to the Lord to be raised by Eli the priest?

## **GROW**

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**BIG IDEA: UNCOMMON FAITH** looks at what GOD CAN DO and not at what I CAN'T DO!

- This story is the only mention of Hannah in the Bible. How does her story demonstrate uncommon faith to you?
- How would you have tried to help Hannah cope with the grief she felt and the bullying she faced?
- Have you ever badly wanted something that would be beneficial to you, yet the roadblocks seemed impossible? Briefly share what that struggle was like.
- How do you respond when God seems to say no?
- What lifts your spirits when you are down?

## **NEXT STEPS**

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- What are you struggling with that we can be praying for you about? How can we be most helpful to you in this?
- What has God provided you with that you need to trust Him with?