



It's a Season, Not a Sentence | Uncle Jimmy | 02.08.2026

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members settle in, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how their lives are going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high, a low, and something interesting from this week.**

G R O W

This week, Uncle Jimmy takes us deep into the life of Hannah from 1 Samuel, a woman caught between prayer and promise, navigating the painful middle ground where miracles seem distant. We discover that Hannah's barrenness wasn't just a personal struggle—it was a divine setup for something far greater than she could imagine. Her pain would eventually birth Samuel, the prophet who would anoint King David, placing her squarely in the lineage that leads to Jesus Christ.

Sometimes, what feels like a sentence is actually just a season, a construction zone where God is rebuilding something stronger than before. We're challenged to examine the voices in our heads—the voice of limited expectation, the taunting voice of disappointment—and refuse to let what's in our heads get to our hearts. Hannah teaches us that a miracle mindset isn't about perfection or having all the answers; it's about showing up year after year in God's presence,

even when the pain persists. The most transformative moment comes when Hannah changes her reason for asking—no longer seeking a child to end her embarrassment, but to give that child back to God for His purposes.

When we shift from self-focused prayers to kingdom-focused prayers, we unlock a peace that transcends our circumstances. We're reminded that peace isn't the absence of pain, but the presence of God in the pain.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20

- **How did this week's message speak to you? Explain.**
- **Hannah kept returning to the house of God year after year despite her ongoing barrenness and discouragement. What keeps you coming back to worship when your prayers seem unanswered, and your circumstances remain unchanged?**
- **Pastor Jimmy mentions that some people hide so well that joy and peace cannot find them. In what ways have you been hiding your true struggles from God, from community, or even from yourself?**
- **Pastor Jimmy identified two voices Hannah faced—Elkanah (stealing expectation) and Peninnah (taunting). What voices are you battling right now? Which one is louder: the voice that steals your expectation or the voice that taunts you with comparison and discouragement?**

M O V E

Hannah's perseverance places her in a long line of faithful believers who refused to let go of God in the middle of their pain. Jacob wrestled with the Lord through the night and declared, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Genesis 32:26). Jesus later tells of a widow who kept returning to the judge again and again, not because the judge was compassionate, but because her persistence revealed a faith that would not quit (Luke 18:1–8). In the same way, Paul urges

the Thessalonians to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)—not as a formula to force God’s hand, but as a posture of dependence that keeps us close to Him.

Persistent prayer is not about proving anything to God; it is about staying close to Him when walking away would be easier. Each return to prayer reshapes our hearts, loosens our grip on outcomes, and deepens our trust in God’s timing and purposes. Like Hannah, we learn that prayer offered in pain is never wasted—because even when circumstances remain unchanged, God is quietly forming something new within us, aligning our desires with His and teaching us how to surrender with hope.

Read Genesis 32:24-30, Luke 18:1-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, Psalm 27:13-14

- **What similarities and differences do you see in the verses above? What caught your attention? Why?**
- **Jacob refused to let go without a blessing. What are you currently holding onto God for? How has waiting shaped—or reshaped—what you’re actually asking Him for?**
- **Jesus tells this parable of the persistent widow so that we would pray and not lose heart in seasons of pain and waiting. Where in your life are you most at risk of losing heart right now—and how might prayer be an act of resistance against despair?**
- **Persistent prayer reshapes us even when circumstances don’t change. In what ways have you noticed God forming something in you through waiting—patience, humility, trust, surrender—even if the outcome hasn’t come yet?**
- **Psalm 27:13–14 speaks of confident waiting. What does it look like for you to “wait for the Lord” with courage and confidence instead of hopelessness and resignation? Where do you need strength to keep waiting?**

P R A Y

- For those battling "voices" of discouragement, comparison, or fear
- For those waiting for miracles—healing, provision, breakthrough
- For the courage to keep showing up in God's presence, even when it's hard
- For peace that surpasses understanding in the middle of difficult seasons
- For Pastor Jimmy and Irene, as she begins chemotherapy