

Title: Rise and Reign: For Not by Might Shall a Man Prevail // **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 1:21-2:11

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

It is no secret today that much of our world is in turmoil. Even the testimony of the horrific events from this past week that have now dominated our headlines, remind us of how divisive and destructive things can be. And it is into this same kind of atmosphere that the story of 1 Samuel begins. Coming right on the heels of the rollercoaster ride of the book of Judges, where each person was doing what was right in their own eyes and there was no king, comes the rise and reign of Israel's greatest kingdom moment in all of the Old Testament. It's a rise and reign that points to the person of Jesus. And it's a rise and reign that, like Jesus, starts in the unlikeliest of places. It starts with a woman named Hannah, who is barren. But, in her barrenness she prays to God and God answers her prayers and reverses her situation. And through her reversed situation, God begins to bring reversal to all of Israel.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

Reversal is possible.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): What do you remember about Hannah's story? What was Hannah's problem? What was Hannah's prayer? What did God do? What did Hannah do in response to what God did? Why was this reversal important to Hannah?

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): What were the three areas of reversal that Jon identified this week in Hannah's prayer and throughout the book of 1 Samuel? (power issues, provision issues, personal issues) Which of these three areas resonate with you most? Where do you want to see a reversal in any or all of these issues? Why?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): What do you think it would look like to be an agent of reversal in the world? As a church? As a person? How can you be a part of that kind of reversal? What keeps you from being part of that? Why?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Stories of Reversal *10 minutes*

Divide your group into two teams. Then place five minutes on a timer. Have each team come up with as many different reversal stories in the Bible as they can. Then have each team read off one story from their list at a time—alternating with the other team until one team has run out of reversal stories to share. The team who still has stories on their list when the other team has finished is the winner. Celebrate with both teams while you call attention to all the reversal stories in the Bible that the teams have listed. Remind the group of Jon's points from Sunday's sermon: 1. Reversal is real, 2. Reversal is the rule, and 3. Reversal is a matter of trust.

Change IN // Testimonies of Reversal *15 minutes*

Make some room this week to invite your group to share places where they have seen God reverse something in their own lives. Invite each person in the group to share the place they have seen God bring the greatest reversal in their life. Then ask the group if anyone is currently praying for a reversal in their life. Use the testimonies of the group to stir up faith as you pray for those who are asking for reversal in their lives.

Change OUT // Go // Life Application Assignment *5 minutes*

This next week at Grace, we are asking any and all of our Grace Groups to represent themselves and invite others to join their group. Take a few minutes this week to think about how your group might want to represent itself. We will have tables set up for each group that wants to take part in recruiting and sharing with others. If your group is interested in doing this, then please email Jen Koenig at jen@gfc.tv.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.