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There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" **1 Samuel 1:1-8 (NIV)**

## WHAT DO I DO WHEN I'M WAITING ON A MIRACLE?

### 1. TELL GOD WHAT YOU \_\_\_\_\_

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

**1 Samuel 1:9-16 (NIV)**

#### Four Elements of Lament

- Turn to God

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?*  
**Psalms 13:1 (ESV)**

- Bring your complaint

*How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?* **Psalms 13:2 (ESV)**

- Ask boldly for help

*Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.*  
**Psalms 13:3-4 (ESV)**

- Choose to trust

*But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.* **Psalms 13:5-6 (ESV)**

### 2. EXPECT GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ BEFORE HIS \_\_\_\_\_

Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. **1 Samuel 1:17-18 (NIV)**

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.* **Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)**

### 3. DON'T LET YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ KEEP YOU FROM YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

*Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah...* **1 Samuel 1:19a (NIV)**

*When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the Lord remembered her plea, and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the Lord for him."*  
**1 Samuel 1:19b-20 (NLT)**