

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of May 7, 2017

No Other God Like You (1 Samuel 2:1-2)

As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003)..

This week’s reflection is very fitting as the people of Evangel consider what church they will attend in the future; it reminds us not only that God is in control of our lives, but we are part of the greater work of his Kingdom..

READ: Hannah prayed, “My heart rejoices in the Lord! Oh, how the Lord has blessed me! Now I have an answer for my enemies, as I delight in your deliverance. No one is holy like the Lord! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.” *1 Samuel 2:1-2*

REFLECT: Hannah’s song of praise over finally receiving God’s long-awaited gift of her son, Samuel, and her decision to dedicate him to God’s service were not just ordinary expressions of thanks. Her exultation in the Lord as the Holy and Sovereign One, all powerful and just rings down through the centuries much the same way Mary’s did when she rejoiced at the news that she would bear the Messiah, Jesus. Because he who created the world and rules over all things, who brings both death and life, had answered Hannah’s fervent prayers for a child, Hannah praised the Lord with all her heart. She delighted in how he had delivered her from the disgrace she had known as a childless woman. Once weak (v. 4), Hannah was so strengthened that her heart could joyfully release her precious Samuel to the Lord and trust that he would accomplish his good plans in her son’s life and in her own.

PRAY: *LORD, there is no one like you! No Rock like our God. You accomplished your plans in Hannah’s and Samuel’s lives in your own perfect time. I trust you to accomplish your plans in my life. Then my heart, too, will overflow in praise for all the ways you have blessed me.*

QUOTE: Because He possessed unlimited power and is perfectly in control of all things, God may always accomplish His wise and good plans for you. *Oswald Chambers*

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Nim Tica’s message*—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Continue to prayer for the succession planning process as we move through the transition of our property from Evangel to Vineyard Church of DuPage in the coming months, with the formal transfer likely to occur on or about August 1. The Negotiating Team, Church Council, and others are attending to a myriad of details. Pray for wisdom, energy, and attention to detail as there is much to do! Pray also that, through it all and despite much sadness, in the end there will be a sense of joy in successfully “ending well” and “passing the baton” to Vineyard.
- In relation to this week’s reflection, pray that the May 21 forum will be helpful as people consider “Where should I attend church?,” seeing it as not just a personal question, but a Kingdom question.

* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”