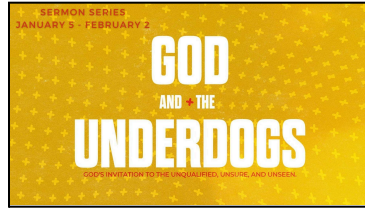


**Hope Presbyterian Church**  
**Sermon-Based Bible Study Group**



**January 19, 2025**

**Hannah: God and the Underdogs** - God's Invitation to the Unqualified, Unsure, and Unseen

**Text Referenced (NIV):** 1 Samuel 1:9b-11, 20, 24-28; Psalm 34:18; Matthew 27:46

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider how cultural or social expectations (e.g., physical and mental health, beauty, economic and financial success, intelligence) can result in shame and grief for those who, through no fault of their own, cannot meet them.
  - Why do we set such expectations?
  - What are some unintended outcomes of these unrealistic expectations or norms in the short and long term?
3. **Read 1 Samuel 1:9b-11.**
  - What do we learn from these verses about Hannah's mental/emotional state and faith?
  - Why would she have been considered an underdog at this moment?
4. **Read Psalm 34:18, Matthew 27:46.**

Think about what it means to be brokenhearted by circumstances you cannot control.

  - How do these passages help us understand lament as a spiritual practice through which God can minister to us and from which we can experience comfort?
  - How do you respond to Dr. Earl Grollman's statement, "Grief is not a disorder, a disease or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity..."
  - What ways have you found most helpful in processing your grief?
5. **Read 1 Samuel 1: 20, 24-28.**

Consider how God had a much bigger plan when he granted Hannah's prayer.

  - Have you experienced grief or brokenness that God turned into a blessing far beyond anything you could have imagined?
6. How can we pray for you?