

## What's God Up to in *Ordinary Time*? [1 Samuel 1]

Introduction: *How do you respond to the word - "ordinary"?*

### I. *ORDINARY* COMES FROM LATIN MEANING REGULAR, ACCORDING TO ORDER

- A. *Ordinary* is the section of the liturgy that is unchanging each Sunday
- B. The adjective *ordinary* means customary, normal, unexceptional
- C. One half of the Church Year (where we are now) is called *ordinary time*
- D. Are you excited about "*ordinary*" yet?

### II. BUT WHAT IS GOD UP TO IN "ORDINARY TIME"?

- A. There's a wonderful Old Testament story about *ordinary time* (1 Samuel 1)
- B. "*Year after year Elkanah went up to worship at Shiloh...*" (1 Sam. 1:3)
- C. "*Year after year his wife Hannah wept because her womb was closed*" (1:4-7)
- D. It was all *ordinary time* for Hannah.... how about you??
- E. Hannah wept, prayed and vowed at the Tabernacle in Shiloh (1:8-18)
- F. *Ordinary time* was over for Hannah when her son Samuel was born (1:19-20)

### III. GOD IS AT WORK IN OUR *ORDINARY TIME* WHETHER WE SEE IT OR NOT

- A. Even in the *ordinary times* of our lives, God is at work
- B. God spoke to Hannah's son Samuel as he listened in *ordinary times* (1 Sam. 3)
- C. God spoke to Elijah as he listened in *ordinary times* (I Kings 19)

### IV. GOD STILL SPEAKS TO US TODAY IN OUR *ORDINARY TIMES*

- A. Dear LORD, give us ears to listen when things are *ordinary*
- B. Dear LORD help us know...You act at just the right time (Galatians 4:4)
- C. Following Jesus **is not** a non-stop, *extraordinary* rollercoaster ride of excitement
- D. Dear LORD, give us Hannah's patient hope & Samuel's faithful listening

Conclusion: God is at work in *ordinary times*: A scene from the movie - *The African Queen*