

1-4 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



MAY 22

SECOND SERVICE

LEADER Bible Study

When was the last time you prayed fervently to God? What did you need? Did He answer in a way you expected? It may seem odd to think of it, but we see God's generosity even when He doesn't give us what we ask for because it is a reminder that God gives us only those things that are best for us.

The story of Hannah is a story of persistent prayer and God's generosity overflowing into the lives of everyone involved. As you teach this session consider the following points.

God generously gave Hannah a son. Hannah wanted a son, and she prayed fervently and frequently for God to give her one. She even offered to give the child back to God if He were to provide one. And God gave her what she so desperately wanted.

Hannah generously gave her son back to God. Every good gift comes from God. He blesses us with resources and possessions to steward, and we can choose to be generous for the sake of Him and His mission. God doesn't need our gifts and offerings, but they are precious to Him. For a mother to devote her son to God's service is a noble sacrifice indeed. Hannah stayed true to her word, sending Samuel to live in the tabernacle and serve God.

God generously gave His Son to us. Just as Hannah sent her son away from home to be dedicated to a life of service, God sent Jesus from His home in God's presence to live as a servant to all people. Jesus came to save sinners, an act of generosity which could never be surpassed.

Guide kids to think about the nature of generosity and why God's generosity to us can fuel our own generosity toward others and toward God's mission.

Generosity: the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish; especially the willingness to give money and other valuable things to others.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE: Prayer

Prayer is the act of talking with God and allowing Him to change and transform you.

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

1 Samuel 1-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What are the consequences for sin?

The consequence for sin is separation from God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Hannah trusted God and sent Samuel away from home to serve God with his whole life. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to be our Savior. Just as Samuel used God's words to tell people about God, Jesus—the Word who became flesh—perfectly shows us what God is like.

KEY PASSAGE: Roman 6.23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Busy Hands

LEARN THROUGH WORSHIP // “Countdown” video, music from the Gospel Project folder: “Onward Christian Soldier” and “Refuge”, Big Picture Question Poster, timeline

COUNTDOWN: Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC: Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “Onward, Christian Soldiers” or “Refuge”—to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so.

INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Say: **Hey there, everyone! Welcome to [grade/class] where we gather together in order to sing praises to God, study His Word, and play games—all to worship and glorify God. Nearly anything we can do is worship if we are trying to honor and glorify God. God created us to love and worship Him, so we use the Bible to help us know and love God more. The Bible also helps us know ourselves more so we can see that we need God.**

One thing the Bible teaches us about ourselves is that we are all sinners. We all think, speak, and behave in ways that go against God and His commands. That brings us to our current big picture question and answer: What are the consequences for sin? The consequence for sin is separation from God. Every one of us starts out dead in sin, separated from God. We deserve that separation from God because of the sin in our hearts. We earn the judgment and anger of God towards sin the same way a worker earns money at a job.

For the last few weeks, we have been looking at Bible stories that all took place while Israel was trapped in a cycle of sin. First, we learned that Israel’s cycle looked like this: they ignored God and chose sin, God allowed enemy kingdoms to conquer them and treat them harshly, Israel remembered God and called out to Him for rescue, God raised up a judge to lead them in battle and help them obey God, the people obeyed God for a while but eventually chose sin again, and so on. The judges were sinners too, just like you and me, so *they could rescue the Israelites from the consequences of their sin but not the cause of it.*

Then we looked more specifically at a judge named Samson. We saw how his sin led to his death, but God still used him to free the Israelites from their enemies. Last week, we heard about Ruth, a woman from Moab who chose to follow God. God showed her kindness and provided for her and her mother-in-law through a family redeemer named Boaz. This week, we will hear about another woman for whom God provided. Her name was Hannah.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY // Bible Story Video: “God Provided for Hannah”, Bible Story Picture Poster, Bible, one sheet of paper, scissors for child in classroom

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1–3. Play the Bible story video “God Provided for Hannah.” After

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Active Minds

Showing the video, discuss the story using the three points below.

1. **God generously gave Hannah a son:** Hannah greatly longed to have a son, and God responded with generosity, granting her request.
2. **Hannah generously gave her son back to God:** Hannah kept her promise to God, sending Samuel to serve at the temple with Eli from a very young age. She continued to care for him, bringing him a robe every year.
3. **God generously gave His Son to us:** Like Hannah, God willingly gave up His Son. He sent Jesus to live, die, and rise again for repentant sinners to be welcomed into the family of God.

Discuss the word and definition of the word “generosity.” See the front page for the definition. Ask if the children if they have any questions about the story and discuss as needed.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Say: **Hannah trusted God and sent Samuel away from home to serve God with his whole life. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to be our Savior. Just as Samuel used God’s words to tell people about God, Jesus—the Word who became flesh—perfectly shows us what God is like.**

GROUP DEMONSTRATION: Invite a child to the front of the class. Give her a sheet of paper and a pair of scissors. Ask her to snip off one of the corners of her paper. Then instruct her to count the corners on the small bit of paper she cut off and the corners on the sheet from which she cut the corners. Say: **It may sound weird at first, but when you cut a corner off a sheet of paper, you actually make more corners, not fewer. Every corner [volunteer’s name] snipped off created four new corners: two on the small bit that was cut away and two from where it was cut. No matter how many corners you cut off, more corners will always be created. This can help us think about God’s generosity in our lives. The gifts we give to God—our time, our money, our skills, our worship, and so on—are small offerings in response to the greatest gift He gives us: salvation in Jesus. God also blesses believers with peace, joy, love, acceptance, victory, and eternal life. He can take our small gifts and multiply them as part of His plan to bless the world through Jesus. Consider how we saw this in our story today. Hannah wanted a child and asked God for a son. God generously gave her a son, and she dedicated Samuel back to God. In return, all of Israel received a prophet whom God used to deliver His messages of justice and hope.**

RESPOND IN WORSHIP // Gospel Project folder on USB: “Your Holy Name” or “We Stand Forgiven”

Choose slower worship songs—such as “Your Holy Name” or “We Stand Forgiven”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

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Active Minds

Say: **In today's story, we saw that God provided for Hannah. But even before He provided a son for her, Hannah chose to worship God. Every year, she went to the tabernacle with her husband to make sacrifices and worship God. Over many of those years, Hannah had prayed for a child. I'm sure that felt sad or hopeless at times. Still, she chose to worship. We can worship God no matter how we feel because the truth about Him never changes, and He is always worthy of our worship. Even on our hard and sad days, we have reasons to worship God.**

PRAYER: Say: **God, Hannah prayed and worshiped even when she was sad. Help us remember that You hear us and You care, no matter how we feel. Amen.**

KEY PASSAGE // Key Passage Poster, Bible, Key Passage Song: "Eternal Life (Romans 6:23)

Say: **Our key passage talks about a gift. Think about the best gift you have ever been given. You may choose to allow the kids to share their best gift at this time. I bet Hannah would say that one of the very best gifts she had been given was her son, Samuel. But the gift that God offers us is even better. He offers us the gift of eternal life with Him. There's nothing better than that.**

Read Romans 6:23 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the key passage poster for kids to read. You may also sing the key passage song, "Eternal Life (Romans 6:23)."

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES // Whiteboard and dry-erase marker, copy of 1 Samuel 2:1-10 for each child (Hannah's Prayer), pencils

Print the definition of a spiritual discipline on the whiteboard. Say: **Let's say the definition of a spiritual discipline together: A spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action, that helps us grow in love for God and godliness.**

Do you remember which spiritual discipline we are learning about in this unit? Pause for answers. Yes, we are currently learning about prayer.

FOLLOW UP ON WEEKLY CHALLENGE: Say: **Our weekly challenge last week was to pray daily and ask God for things we need and want and to pray for others. I also challenged you to keep track of the things God provided by the end of the week. Who completed the challenge this week? What are some of the things God provided?** [Allow responses.]

REVIEW THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER: **Who will share something you remember learning about prayer over the last few weeks?** [Allow responses.]

Say: **Prayer as a spiritual discipline is all about talking with God, growing closer to Him, and allowing Him to change or transform you. Jesus provided a model prayer to help teach us how to pray.**

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Active Minds

A few weeks ago we learned the acronym **PRAY** (praise, repent, ask, yield) to help us remember different ways we can talk with God. [Refer to the different letters around the room.] Last week we spent time thinking about the letter “A” and how we can ask God for what we need and intercede for others. This week we will look more closely at the letter “P” and think about how we can praise, worship, and thank God through prayer.

GROUP ACTIVITY: ANNOTATE HANNAH’S PRAYER: Distribute copies of Hannah’s prayer and writing utensils. Place kids in small groups. Lead kids to read through the prayer and work together to circle each time Hannah *praises, worships, or thanks God*. Now instruct kids to quickly read through the prayer a second time and underline any time Hannah *asks God for something*. If kids get frustrated with the second task, reveal that there are no requests in this prayer. It is only a prayer of praise.

Say: **Hannah’s prayer is filled with praises to God. She was expressing worship and gratitude for the son God provided. In this particular prayer, Hannah did not make any requests. She simply focused on giving glory to God. How many times do you pray without asking for anything? Likely not very often, but prayer does not always have to include requests. When you think about worshiping God, you probably think about singing, reading the Bible, or giving an offering. You might even think about someone praying during a worship service, but how often do you think about praying by yourself as an act of praise and worship to God? Likely not very often. One way you can practice the spiritual discipline of prayer and grow in godliness is to praise God when you speak with Him.**

READ THE BIBLE // Bibles

Distribute Bibles. Locate 1 Samuel 2:2, and encourage kids to find the passage in their own Bibles.

Some of the ways Hannah praised God in her prayer are easy to understand. What are some things Hannah said about God in verse 2? [Allow responses.]

Say: **Hannah said that God is holy; exceptional (no one like Him); faithful, strong, and unchanging (a rock). Some of the ways Hannah praised God in her prayer are more poetic, or more difficult to understand like in verses 6-8.**

Look at verses 6-8. What did Hannah say about God in these verses? [Allow responses.]

Say: **God has control over life and death (v. 6). God has control over money and earthly authority (vv. 7-8). God is all-powerful. He created everything, so everything is under His power and control (v. 8). Hannah said these things in order to ascribe glory to God, or to celebrate His greatness. She offered praises to God for who He is and what He had done.**

Hannah prayed different types of prayer. She prayed for many years, asking God to provide her with a child. After God answered her prayer, she prayed this prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

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Open Hearts

When God answers our prayers, we sometimes have a tendency to hastily move on to our next request. We fail to acknowledge what God has done. We can grow in faith by recognizing when God answers our prayers and thanking and praising Him. Praying in this way helps us to remember God's greatness and helps us grow closer to Him.

GROUP GAME: OFFER A PRAISE // None

Ask kids to find a partner. Each partner should take turns saying a word of praise that describes God. (IF you only have a few kids because of Created to Praise, you may do this as a group). Encourage kids to think about some of the words Hannah used to praise God in her prayer such as *holy, exceptional, faithful, strong, unchanging, a rock, all-powerful, sovereign, and so forth*. Partners will go back and forth until one is unable to think of a new word (within about 5 seconds), or until someone repeats a word that has already been said in that round. The first player to fail the objective loses. Invite kids to find new partners and play additional rounds.

Say: **In this game, we thought about words we can use to worship God. We can praise and worship God together, and we can also worship God on our own by speaking with Him and offering Him prayers of praise. Praying in this way helps us to remember God's greatness and helps us grow closer to Him.**

PRAYER // Missionary Card for the Geesey family, index cards, pencils

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER: Remind kids that Hannah prayed for a child for many years before God answered her prayer. Sometimes practicing the spiritual discipline of prayer means having persistence, perseverance, and patience. Last week, we learned about the importance of asking God for the things we need and want as well as praying for others.

Distribute index cards and pencils. Guide kids to write a prayer request on their cards. Direct each kid to pass her card one person to the left. Invite groups to pray aloud together, with each person especially praying for the request he received from his neighbor.

MISSIONS MOMENT: The Geesey family, from LEFC, will be leaving this summer for Southeast Asia. We are going to pray for them as they prepare for this new and exciting adventure that God has called them to. Pray for them with your kids according to the information on the missions card placed in your bin. Say: **You may not be going to another country this summer to be a missionary, but you can tell others about Jesus. We can call people on the phone or tell them in person how much Jesus loves us.**

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Say: **God, You are amazing. Help us to never forget how incredible You are. Thank You for everything You have done for us. Thank You especially for sending Jesus to bring us salvation and life. Help us to grow to be more like Him. We love You. Amen.**



Extra Ideas

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION // None

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. We talked about the generosity you might feel when you think about God's answer to Hannah's prayer, but that may not be the only feeling you have when you think about God's plans. What are some other feelings you may have when you think about God's generosity?

Help kids think about and describe other feelings they may have, such as hopefulness that God answers prayers, or sadness that Samuel had to live away from his family. Provide a safe place for kids to discuss emotions, and remind kids that their feelings are real and valid, even if they don't match what others feel.

2. Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories? Help kids talk through other situations where they have felt generosity, hopefulness, sadness, or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.

3. Can you think of any hurtful or destructive ways we might use those feelings? Sometimes we might do something that looks generous on the outside, but really our heart is not in the right place. God knows our heart and He wants us to do the right thing with the right heart, not the right thing with the wrong heart.

4. Can you think of any helpful or constructive ways we might use those feelings? God calls us to share what we have with others. When we act out of generosity, we are showing other people the love and character of God. Generosity also helps us trust God, because giving something away means we trust God to fulfill that need in our life.

WRITE A PRAYER OF PRAISE // Paper, pencils, music on your USB (optional)

Distribute paper and pencils. Encourage kids to think about something God has done recently in their lives. Or guide them to think about a specific prayer God has answered. With this in mind, direct kids to write their own prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Consider playing some soft music during this activity to help create an atmosphere of worship. After they are complete, invite volunteers to read their prayers aloud to God.



Extra Ideas

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Note: Feel free to use this clear and concise list to help children understand God's plan for them today or any time children have questions about salvation.