

1/2 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



MAY 22

FIRST 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?

When Hannah wanted a baby, she cried out to God with great earnestness so much that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. Hannah had confidence that God heard her prayer. She understood that one of the evidences of the understanding and the belief that God hears and answers prayer is persistence in prayer.

Hannah prayed with a passion and bitterness of heart that looked to God at first and fixed her gaze upon the Lord only. She didn't even notice Eli watching her. She believed that God heard and God acted as a result of our small prayers. She prayed with passion because she believed God heard her.

But what if our prayers seem not to be heard? Hannah is a great example for us of what C. H. Spurgeon observed about prayer in his book *Illustrations and Meditations*: "Frequently the richest answers are not the speediest ... A prayer may be all the longer on its voyage because it is bringing us a heavier freight of blessing. Delayed answers are not only trials of faith, but they give us an opportunity of honoring God by our steadfast confidence in Him under apparent repulses."

Finally, Hannah's persistence in prayer showed that she understood she could not fix her situation but the all-powerful God who hears and acts could. The next year, Hannah came with a baby in her arms. A baby she named Samuel, which means "God heard." Samuel's life was a constant reminder to Hannah and all of Israel that God lives, hears, and acts.

As you prepare to serve kids through teaching, remember that even prayers that seem to be delayed are meant to strengthen our resolve to pray and to honor God with a confidence that can't be shaken. We serve a God who hears us, and because He hears us, no prayer is too small or too big that we can't bring Him.

GOD

PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1-3

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Samuel: Israelite priest and prophet who was Israel's last judge

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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What are the consequences for sin?
The consequence for sin is separation from God.

KEY PASSAGE

Romans 6:23
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Busy Hands

WELCOME KIDS // *“POUR OUT YOUR HEART” ACTIVITY PAGE / CHILD, COLORED PENCILS, BIBLES*

Greet each child as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

Say: **What is the last thing you asked God to do for you? Did He provide in the way you asked or in a different way? Today, we’re going to learn about Hannah, who asked God to give her something very special. Let’s see if He provided in the way Hannah thought He would.**

ACTIVITY PAGE: Invite kids to complete “Pour Out Your Heart” on the activity page. The children will draw or write something they really want God to do or provide for them. Say: **God tells us in Matthew 7:7 that God wants us to ask for the things we want. In 1 Peter 5:7, we learn that we can give all our cares to God because He cares for us. God wants us to trust Him with things that are important to us.** You may have children look up the verses and read them directly from the Bible.

SESSION STARTER // *NONE*

MOTHER, MAY I? Lead kids in playing a game of “Mother, May I?” Direct kids to stand shoulder to shoulder at one side of the room. Stand at the other side and invite kids to take turns asking permission to approach: “Mother, may I take [any number] steps?” Respond by saying “Yes,” “No,” or “Not yet.” If you say “Not yet,” a player should silently count to 30 before taking the steps forward. Play until several kids reach you at the other side of the room. With large class divide into 2 groups.

Say: **That was fun. God always has answers to our prayers. Sometimes God’s answer is yes, sometimes His answer is no, and sometimes He says not yet. God knows what’s best for us and when it’s best for us.**

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY // *COUNTDOWN VIDEO, BIBLES, BIG PICTURE QUESTION POSTER, TIMELINE*

INTRODUCE THE SESSION: Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Say: **Hey, everyone! I am so glad that you are here. Week after week, we gather to study the Bible together. The Bible is God’s Word, and it tells us everything we need to know about God’s love for us and how we can love God and honor Him with our lives. How many of you brought a Bible today?** [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] **The Bible teaches us that God is our Father and we can ask Him for everything we need. What is something that you asked your parents to buy you? Did they?** [Allow responses.]

Continued on the next page.



Active Minds

Today, we're going to hear about a woman named Hannah who asked God for something special. God tells us to ask Him for what we want. Sometimes God gives to us what we ask for and sometimes He doesn't. God always does what is best. God wants to give us good gifts because He loves us, and He does everything for His glory and our good.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Say: **God says in His Word that sin is serious. Sin requires a payment. We don't get to decide what the payment for sin should be. God decides. Here is our big picture question: What are the consequences for sin? [Allow responses.] Yes! The consequence for sin is separation from God. We deserve to be separated from God for our sins. That's bad news. The good news is that God loves us and He sent Jesus to die in our place. Jesus died on the cross two thousand years ago and rose from the dead so everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever. Through Jesus we have a relationship with God.**

REVIEW THE TIMELINE: Show the timeline. Point to the Bible stories from this unit as you review. Say: **Over the last few weeks, we've seen how serious sin is in the stories about the Israelites from the Book of Judges. First, we learned that the judges couldn't completely save the Israelites from their sin. Next, we saw how God used Samson's death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Last week, we learned that God provided a family redeemer for Ruth as a part of His plan to send a greater Redeemer for all sinners. All of these Bible stories point us to Jesus. Jesus provides for our greatest need to be saved from our sins. Let's hear how God provided for Hannah.**

THE BIBLE STORY: GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH // BIBLES, BIBLE STORY PICTURE POSTER, OLD TESTAMENT MEDITERRANEAN MAP, QUESTIONS FROM KIDS VIDEO (UNIT 9, SESSION 4)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1-3. Use the Bible Story Poster and storytelling tips to help you tell the story: As you tell the story, use a dramatic voice to convey some of the emotion Hannah must have felt as she pleaded with God for a son and later, when Samuel heard God's voice. You may also pause and ask questions like, "How would you feel if you heard God calling you in the night?"

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

In a land called Ephraim (EE fra ihm), a man named Elkanah (el KAY nuh) lived with his wife Hannah. Hannah was sad because she really wanted children, but she didn't have any. Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to make sacrifices to God and to worship Him. Hannah went with him. She prayed: "Lord, if You give me a son, I will dedicate him to You. He will serve You all of his life."

A priest named Eli sat nearby and watched Hannah pray. He couldn't hear her, but he saw her lips moving. Eli thought something was wrong with Hannah. "I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord," she explained. So Eli replied, "Go in peace. May God answer your prayers." Hannah and Elkanah returned home, and God answered her prayers. After some time, Hannah gave birth to a son. She named the baby Samuel.

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Active Minds

When Samuel was a little older, Hannah took him to Eli at the tabernacle. “God answered my prayers!” she said. Hannah pledged Samuel to serve God, and she worshiped God. Then Hannah went back home and left Samuel with Eli to serve God. Every year, Hannah returned with a new robe for Samuel. God gave Hannah many more children too.

One night, Eli was in his bed and Samuel was lying in the tabernacle when Samuel heard someone call his name. “Here I am,” Samuel replied. He ran to Eli. “Here I am; you called me.” But it wasn’t Eli. He told Samuel to go back to bed. God called Samuel three times, and each time Samuel ran to Eli. “Here I am,” he said. Eli finally understood that God was calling to Samuel. He told Samuel how to respond.

So Samuel went back to his place, and God called, “Samuel, Samuel!” This time, Samuel spoke up, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” God told Samuel that He was going to judge Eli’s family for their sin. Eli’s sons served as priests in the tabernacle, but they were sinning against God.

The next day, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said, but he shared God’s message with Eli. As Samuel grew, God was with him. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God’s messenger. God used Samuel to share His plan with the nation of Israel.

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.**

REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS: Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 1-3. Explain that Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel are all part of the historical Books of the Bible. The prophet Samuel wrote the Book of 1 Samuel. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 3:1-21, or several children to read parts of the passage. If there are no strong readers in your group, ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Israel (G9) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map.

Say: **Hannah cried out to the Lord for a child. God heard her cry and gave her the gift of Samuel. Hannah gave Samuel back to God out of her thankfulness for His provision. Hannah took Samuel to live at the tabernacle with Eli, a priest. Eli taught Samuel how to love and serve God. Samuel spent his entire life serving God. One night, God called to Samuel. God used Samuel to deliver His messages to His people. Hundreds of years later, God sent His own Son to perfectly show us what God is like.**

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS: Show the “Unit 9, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Does God answer all our prayers? How can you be sure He hears you?
2. How might God answer our prayers in unexpected ways?



Open Hearts

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY // KEY PASSAGE POSTER, STICKY NOTES FOR KIDS, KEY PASSAGE SONG: "ETERNAL LIFE (ROMANS 6:23)"

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 6:23 together. Say: **Just like Hannah trusted God, we can trust God's Word. God's Word is clear that the payment for sin is death. God's Word also offers life through Jesus Christ. We can trust God's Word and Jesus.**

Provide child with a sticky note. Read Romans 6:23 aloud. Each time you read the key passage, invite one child or several children to put their sticky notes on the poster to cover one word. Read aloud Romans 6:23, filling in the missing word. Continue until all words are covered and the kids can fill in all of the missing words in the key passage. This will help them to memorize the passage.

Lead kids to sing "Eternal Life (Romans 6:23)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY: Invite kids to pray. Say: **Father God, Your Word became flesh in Jesus. Thank You for showing us what You are like through Your perfect Son. We want to know You even more. Draw us close to You. Amen.**

1, 2, 3 LOOK // NONE

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Guide kids to close their eyes. Explain that when you say, "1, 2, 3, Look," each child should open his eyes at look at another player. Players may not move their eyes to another player. If two kids are looking at each other, the first kid to shout out the other player's name is safe. The other player must sit down. Any player looking at someone who is looking at someone else remains in the game. Guide remaining players to close their eyes and play again. Play until one player remains or as time allows.

Say: **Imagine how Samuel felt when he realized God was speaking to him! God chose Samuel to be a prophet, or messenger for God. Samuel said God would judge Eli's family for their sin. What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.**

REFLECTION // HALF SHEET PAPER & PENCIL PER CHILD, COLORING PAGE, CRAYONS

Distribute a half sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?**
- Who can I tell about this story?**

If there is time at the end of class, the children may color the picture on the back of their activity page from the first opening activity.



Extra Ideas

WHOSE VOICE? // NONE

Direct the kids to sit in a circle with their eyes closed. Tap one player on her shoulder. This player should move quietly to the center of the circle and say, "Samuel, Samuel." She may attempt to disguise her voice. With eyes closed, kids will raise their hand to guess whose voice is speaking. Allow up to three kids to make a guess. If a kid guesses correctly, reset the game and play again. If no one guesses correctly, the speaker will speak again. Continue playing as time allows.

Say: **It wasn't always easy to guess who was talking. In our Bible story today, Samuel heard someone calling his name, but he didn't realize who was speaking to him. Let's read more to find out who was calling, 'Samuel, Samuel.' t's best for us.**

GROUP DISCUSSION // NONE

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Say: **Why do you think God gave Hannah what she asked for?** Hannah loved and trusted God. She wanted a son and promised to dedicate him to God's service. Hannah's actions show her desire to honor God. We can be honest with God about what we want and need. He will always do what is best. Even when God says no or allows us to experience hard times, we can trust He is working for His glory and our good.

Say: **Why do you think Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the message from God?** Samuel was raised mostly by Eli, and God's message was a message of judgment for Eli and his sons. Samuel may have been afraid that Eli wouldn't believe him, or he may have feared that Eli would be angry at him for the message. Sometimes, God's messages can be hard to hear, because they tell us we deserve death for sin. But we must understand how serious sin is in order to see how much we need a Savior.

Say: **Is there anyone in your life that you would be afraid to tell about Jesus?** The Bible contains harsh messages for people who refuse to honor God. Many people hear those messages and think they are hateful or wrong. It can be difficult to share the truth with people who don't want to believe, but God can give us the wisdom and courage we need to share with anyone. It is always important to be loving in the way we talk about God's truth.