

# 2'S / 3'S

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

I SAMUEL 1-3

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

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

### CHRIST CONNECTION

Samuel told people what God is like and what He would do. Jesus, the Son of God, told people about God's plan and showed the world what God is like.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What are the consequences for sin?

The consequence for sin is separation from God.

### KEY PASSAGE

God gives life forever.

Romans 6:23



# Come & Play

## **SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE ROBES** // 5 sets of small, medium and large cardstock robes

Place the sets of robes on the table. As the children enter the room welcome them and encourage them to play the sizing game at the table. One shepherd should stay with the kids at the table. Ask the children to compare the 3 robes in the set. Instruct them to look at the one which is the largest. Which one is the smallest? Which one is the middle size? You might also ask the color of each one and which is their favorite. If the child is interested, you may also ask which of the 3 robes would be worn by a baby, a child and a grown man based on the sizes of small, medium and large. Have fun engaging with the kids.

After most of the children have arrived and have had some time to play, ask them to find a seat at one of the tables to complete the next activity.

## **COMPARE THE CLOTHES** // "Compare the Clothes" activity page, crayons

Place the crayons on the tables and give each child an activity page. Ask them what they see: shirts, pants, robes and sandals. Ask the children if they have always worn the same size clothing. Discuss if they wear bigger clothes as they get older or smaller clothes. You might even have a discussion about their favorite article of clothing.

Have the children look at the paper and read the directions to them. Say: **Children grow and need bigger clothes. Circle the smallest clothes in each row.** Before going to the next step, have the children complete that task. Help where needed. Then say: **Now draw an X on the largest clothes in each row.** When the children are finished say: **Today we will learn about a baby named Samuel and why he was so special.**

Note: On the other side of the paper is the coloring page and information to be sent home with the children. If there is time you may have the children color the picture of Hannah.

## **MAKE A PRAYER LIST** // Tent whiteboard and dry-erase marker in your classroom

Have the children assemble on the rug for the Bible story. Welcome the preschoolers to group time. Let them know how excited you are to have them in Sunday School. Encourage children to say reasons to thank God and things they can ask God to do. Make a list on your whiteboard and draw a simple picture next to it.

Say: **God hears and answers our prayers. Does He give us everything we want? No. You might want five ice creams, but your mom, dad, or grandparent might only buy you one. They know what you want and need and what is best for you, even if you do not. God also knows our wants and needs. Let's listen to a story about something Hannah prayed to God about.**



# Show & Tell

**BIBLE STORY: God Provided for Hannah** // *Story printed below, Bible Story Video: "God Provided for Hannah", Bible, Bible Story Picture Poster, songs on USB, Key Passage Phrase card*

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY:** Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1-3 and tell the following Bible story. Display the Bible Story Picture poster as a visual for the children. You may also choose to show the Bible Story Video: "God Provided for Hannah."

## GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

Say: A man named Elkanah (el KAY nuh) lived with his wife Hannah in the hill country. Hannah wanted a family.

Elkanah and Hannah went to the tabernacle. Hannah prayed to God: "God, if You give me a son, I will give him to You."

Eli the priest was sitting nearby. "I am very sad," Hannah told Eli. "I have been telling God how I feel." Eli said, "Go in peace. May God give you what you asked for." God gave Hannah what she asked for! Hannah had a baby boy named Samuel.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to Eli at the tabernacle. "This is the son I prayed for. I am giving him to God," she said.

Hannah worshiped God. She left Samuel with Eli to serve God, and went home. Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe.

Samuel grew older and obeyed God. One night, Samuel was lying in the tabernacle and heard someone call his name. He ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me." But Eli did not call Samuel. Eli told Samuel to lie back down. God called Samuel three times. Each time, Samuel ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel what to say.

Samuel lay down. God called, "Samuel, Samuel!" This time, Samuel said, "Speak, I am listening." God gave Samuel a message to tell about Eli's family.

As Samuel grew, God was with Samuel. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God's messenger.

**REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY CONNECTION:** Remind preschoolers that Samuel ran to Eli when he thought Eli called his name. Ask questions about the picture and the Bible story. Call on a child and ask him to walk quickly to the front of the room to answer. Say: **Hannah prayed to God for a son. God gave her a baby boy named Samuel. When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to Eli at the tabernacle. Samuel stayed with Eli and served God. Samuel grew older and obeyed God. One night, Samuel was lying in the tabernacle and heard someone call his name. He ran to Eli because he thought it was Eli who called his name. It was God that called and He gave Samuel a message about Eli's family. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God's messenger. Samuel told people what God is like and what He would do. Jesus, the Son of God, told people about God's plan and showed the world what God is like.**

Continued on the next page.



# Color & Make

SING SOME SONGS: Sing the next two songs to the familiar tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

“God hears us when we pray, God hears us when we pray!  
God hears our prayer and answers us. God hears us when we pray!”

“God wants us to obey, God wants us to obey. The Bible tells us many times, God wants us to obey.  
To disobey is sin, to disobey is sin. The Bible tells us many times, to disobey is sin.”

You may also sing songs from the Gospel Project folder on your USB or any other songs your children like to sing.

Review the Key Passage: Invite the children to sit or lie down as if they are sleeping like Samuel. Call on each child by name, one at a time. Guide her to hurry to you and say, “Here I am!” Open your Bible and read the key passage phrase card: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23. High-five her, tell her to lie down again, and repeat.

Say: **Our key passage phrase reminds us that God gives us good things, including life with Him forever. God heard Hannah’s prayer. God hears us when we pray too.**

PRAY: Pray, thanking God for Samuel learning about God and choosing to follow Him. Pray that God will help each boy and girl learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him, too. You may also want to include some of the items from the “Make A Prayer List” part of your lesson.

## **SAMUEL’S NEW COAT** // *Samuel’s New Coat craft page, glue sticks, small pieces of colorful construction paper*

Place the construction paper and glue sticks on the tables. Pass out the craft page to each child. Read the bottom of the page to the kids: **When Samuel grew, Hannah brought him to the church to help Eli. Samuel stayed with Eli to learn to be God’s helper. Hannah brought Samuel a new coat each year. Hannah loved Samuel. Hannah loved God. “I love the Lord.” Psalm 116:1.**

Encourage the kids to tear the pieces of paper and glue them to the coat. Make it colorful and fun.

Remind the children that Samuel told people what God is like and what He would do. Jesus, the Son of God, told people about God’s plan and showed the world what God is like.