

2'S / 3'S

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?

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

CARE FOR BABIES // *Play baby dolls and accessories from the classroom*

Provide baby dolls, toy bottles, baby clothes, blankets or other available items for children to play out caring for the babies. Gather all the items from the classroom and place them on one table.

Encourage the children to play with the items as they enter the classroom before playing with the other toys available to them. For the children who are staying for second service, call them over to participate in the activity before going back to playing with the other toys.

Ask various questions as the children take care of the baby: How do you care for a baby? What does a baby eat? Does a baby cry? Does a baby sleep? And so on.

SORT PICTURES OF PEOPLE // *"Pictures of People" printable cards, index cards with the following words: babies, children, teenagers, adults (one word per card)*

Spread the pictures on the table. Place the four cards on the table and read them to the kids: babies, children, teenagers and adults. Have the children sort the pictures. They may do it together or individually. Encourage children to sort the pictures by ages (babies, children, teenagers, adults).

Comment that in our Bible story we will learn that Samuel began to learn about God when he was a boy and told people about God when he was an adult.

Say: **We have many pictures of people. All people need to learn about God. God used Samuel to tell people about God. God uses the Bible, our families, and people at church to teach us about Himself. People can learn about God and obey Him, just like Samuel did. What do you learn about God? How can you obey God?**

PUZZLE IT // *Bible Story Picture Puzzles (6), Bible Story Picture Poster*

Place the puzzles on one table for the children to put together. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster so they may use it as a guide.

Instruct the kids to assemble the picture puzzle. Help the kids when needed., Ask the children what they see in the picture: a woman, a man, a small child, and an oil lamp.

Say: **We will learn all about these people in our Bible story. The woman's name is Hannah and she is a woman who prayed to God.**



Show & Tell

BIBLE STORY: God Provided for Hannah // *Story Points printed below, Bible Story Picture Poster, songs on USB, tent whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bible, The Beginner's Bible, small construction paper tags— one per child (1"by 3"), wall tape, measuring tape, Key Passage Phrase—one word on each page of construction paper, Key Passage Phrase marker*

INTRODUCTION: Ask the children things they like to do at church. Print their answers on the tent whiteboard. After the list is finished, read it to the children. Comment that Samuel, the boy we will learn about in our Bible story, *lived* at the tabernacle, or church, and helped Eli, the priest.

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY: Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1–3 and tell the following Bible story using the points listed below. Post the Bible Story Picture Poster as a visual for the kids. Or, you may choose to read the story “Hannah’s Prayer” in the Beginner’s Bible on pages 156-159. You may also read the next story, “A Voice in the Night” on pages 160-163. Both stories are short. Make the decision based on the attentiveness of the children.

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

- Hannah wanted a family. Hannah prayed, “God, if You give me a son, I will give him to You.”
- God answered Hannah’s prayer with a son named Samuel.
- When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to Eli, the priest at the tabernacle. “This is the son I prayed for. I am giving him to God,” she said. Hannah worshiped God.
- Samuel lived with Eli in the tabernacle. Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe.
- One night, Samuel heard someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli, but it was God! God gave Samuel a message about Eli’s family.
- As Samuel grew, God was with Samuel. People knew Samuel was God’s messenger.

PRAY: Pray, thanking God for hearing and answering Hannah’s prayer and our prayers. Comment that sometimes we pray a long time for God to answer.

MEASURE CHILDREN: Use the small tags to write the child’s name and their height. Place them on the wall at the correct height. Guide children to stand against the wall as you note their heights. Print the child’s name and height on the tag. Tape them to the wall at the correct height. Comment that they are growing and learning about God’s plan. Be sensitive to children’s concerns about their height.

Say: You are growing. God planned for you to grow, and to learn more and more about Him, like Samuel did. What have you learned about God? Samuel grew and obeyed God. We can too. 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.

MAKE A KEY PASSAGE PHRASE BANNER: Tape the pieces of construction paper (one word per page) together to make a banner. Place a Bible with a key passage phrase marker at Romans 6:23. Invite a child to open the Bible to the phrase. Read the phrase and point to each word on the banner as you say it. Repeat the phrase and point to the words on the banner again. You may choose to have a child help you point to the words when you repeat the phrase.

Talk about God’s promise to give life forever. Say: **We have been learning our key passage phrase from Romans 6:23. ‘God gives life forever.’ We can read more of God’s promises in the Bible. God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus told people about God’s plan and showed the world what God is like.**

PRAY: Pray, thanking God for hearing and answering Hannah’s prayer and our prayers. Comment that sometimes we pray a long time for God to answer.

SAMUEL GREW // *“Samuel Grew” coloring page, glue sticks, crayons, paper coat to glue to the picture*

Give each child the coloring page and read the sentence at the bottom of the paper: **“And the boy, Samuel, continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men.” 1 Samuel 2:26**

Place the crayons and glue sticks on the tables. Give each child a construction paper coat. Instruct the children to glue the coat to the place on the picture where Hannah, the mother, is giving Samuel the coat. Then they may finish coloring the page.

Remind the children that Samuel learned about God as a boy and told others about God as he grew.