

PRE-K / K

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 preschoolers 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

Samuel told people what God is like and what He would do. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a human. He 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

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 AND OPENING ACTIVITY // “Complete the Pattern”, crayons

Welcome the children to your classroom and allow time to play as kids arrive. When most children have arrived for first service, ask the children to find a seat at one of the tables and begin with the activity page.

ACTIVITY PAGE: Place the crayons on the tables. Lead preschoolers to complete “Complete the Pattern” on the activity page. Read the directions to the kids: **Study the pattern in each row and circle the items on the right that should come next.** You may want to do the first one with the children to help them complete the rest of the page.

Say: **Each of these things appears in a repeated pattern in our Bible story today. We will learn about a woman who traveled to the tabernacle where the priest wore special robes, about a baby boy, and about a special message someone heard.**

SESSION STARTER // “Places of Worship” pictures (2 pictures for each table), Play-Doh, two blankets and other items from the classroom, several sheets of posterboard, construction paper

BUILD PLACES OF WORSHIP: Place 2 “Places of Worship” pictures on each table. You may have small groups work together on this project or have each child build a place of worship. Invite preschoolers to build a replica with creative items around the room, such as books, tables, chairs, folded paper, Play-Doh, blankets and so forth. If it would be easier, you could also choose one picture and work together as a class to build it. Encourage creativity but supervise for safety. Remind children that the tabernacle was where the Israelites went to worship God. Give thanks that we can now worship God anywhere, anytime. Say: **God told His people how to build the tabernacle. People would travel from all over Israel to worship God there. It was a long trip for some people, so they could only go once a year. We will learn more about one of those families today.**

TRANSITION AND INTRODUCE // Countdown video, item or picture from home (optional)

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Pretend you are taking a long trip and walk a round-about way to the Bible study area.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY: Ask the children to talk about a time they wanted something very badly. What was it, did they get it, and what did they do once they got it? Tell them an age-appropriate personal experience as well. If your experience revolved around anything material that you still have, bring the item or a picture of it to show the children. Say: **Today we are going to learn about a woman who wanted something very badly. When she got it though, she didn’t keep it to herself. She gave her gift back to God!**



Active Minds

BIBLE STORY: God Provided for Hannah // *Bookmark, Bible, timeline, Bible Story Picture Poster, story printed below, video: "God Provided for Hannah", doll from the classroom, robe from home (optional)*

Place a bookmark at 1 Samuel 1 in your Bible. Invite a child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible. Say: **Just after the story of Ruth in the Bible comes the Book of 1 Samuel. We know the stories about these people are true because they are in God's Word!** Point to the Bible story picture on the small timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY: Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips and display the Bible Story Picture Poster. You may also show the video provided on the USB.

STORYTELLING TIPS: *Use props:* Hold a baby doll when mentioning that God gave Hannah a baby boy. Put on a robe (from home) when mentioning that Hannah brought Samuel a new robe each year. *Walk back and forth:* Make exaggerated movements from one side of the storytelling area to the other as you tell about Hannah's trips to the tabernacle and then Samuel's trips to Eli when God called him at night. You may pick and choose which storytelling tips you want to use while telling the story.

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

A man named Elkanah (el KAY nuh) lived with his wife Hannah in the hill country. Hannah was sad because she did not have any children. Hannah wanted a family. Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to worship God. Hannah went with him. One day, Hannah prayed to God: "Lord, if You give me a son, I will give him to You. He will serve You all of his life."

Eli the priest was sitting nearby. He watched Hannah pray. Eli thought something was wrong with Hannah. "I am very sad," Hannah told Eli. "I've been telling God how I feel." Eli said, "Go in peace. May God give you what you asked for." Hannah and Elkanah went home, and God did give Hannah what she asked for! After some time, Hannah had a baby boy. She named him Samuel.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to the tabernacle. "God gave me what I asked for!" Hannah said. Hannah worshiped God. Then she left Samuel with Eli to serve God, and Hannah went home. Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe. God gave Hannah many more children.

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



Active Minds

This time, Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” God told Samuel that He was going to punish Eli’s family. Eli’s sons were priests in the tabernacle, and they had disobeyed God. The next day, Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God had said. Samuel was afraid because God’s message was bad news for Eli, but he told him anyway. As Samuel grew, God was with Samuel, and everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God’s messenger.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY // None

Say: Hannah was very sad. Do you remember what Hannah asked God to do for her? [Allow preschoolers to respond.] That’s right. Hannah prayed with all her heart and asked God to give her a son. God loves for us to tell Him how we feel and ask Him for things.

How did God answer Hannah’s prayer? [Allow preschoolers to respond.] Yes, God gave Hannah a son. Hannah did not forget the promise she made to God. When Samuel was old enough, Hannah gave him back to God to serve Him.

From a young age, God spoke with Samuel and used him to tell people what God is like and what He was going to do. Many years later, God gave a son to another woman who didn’t have any children. She also trusted God and her son served God all of His life. Do you know who that is? Pause for responses. Yes. His name was Jesus! Jesus showed people what God is like and what He planned to do, too.

Ask: What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?

Ask: What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?

Ask: Where did Samuel serve God?

PRAY: Invite children to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him. Say: **God, You are the giver of life. We praise You for creating us and for offering us eternal life through Jesus. Thank You for showing us what You are like through Your Word and Your Son. Help us repent of our sin. Help us trust You no matter what. Help us give our gifts back to You out of love for You. Help us listen to Your voice and obey You. Amen.**

KEY PASSAGE // Key Passage Marker, Bible, Key Passage Poster, Key Passage song: “Gift of God”, Big Picture Question Poster

Place the key passage marker at Romans 6:23. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. You may reference the Key Passage Poster and point to each word as you say it with the children. Then encourage preschoolers to recite the key passage aloud while you lead them silently.

Continued on the next page.



Open Hearts

Say: **Life is a gift from God. There was nothing that Hannah could do to get a child except trust God, and there is nothing we can do to gain eternal life except trust Jesus! Both physical life and spiritual life are free gifts from God that we could never earn.**

Sing the key passage song, "Gift of God (Romans 6:23)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

If there is time, review the Big Picture Question. Display the big picture question poster. Say: **What is the consequence for sin? The consequence for sin is separation from God. It means we would not have a relationship with God. That would be so sad. Jesus took our punishment when He died on the cross for our sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus can now have eternal life instead! We will find out next week whether Eli's family turned from their sin after Samuel's warning or if they received God's punishment.**

CALL BY NAME // None

Instruct kids to sit or lie down in one area of the room. Go to the other side of the room and call a child by name. That child should then run to you and say, "Here I am!" Give the child a message, such as phrases from the key passage, big picture question, or the Bible story. Ask the child to run back to the group and tell the message to the other children. Repeat for each child. If you have a large class, you may want to choose 5 children to participate as runners.

Say: **God called Samuel by name three times while he was lying down in the tabernacle. Each time, Samuel ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am!' Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel what to do. God told Samuel that He was going to punish Eli's family for their sin. 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. *The message that we get to tell about Jesus is good news!***

TALK ABOUT YOUR GIFTS // *Picture of a bicycle, electronic tablet, tasty treat, stuffed animal*

Display a variety of items or pictures of items that a preschooler might want. Allow a child to select an item he wants and ask him how he could use it to serve someone else. Make suggestions as needed. Use the ideas below or create your own:

- bicycle: loan it to someone who has to walk everywhere
- electronic tablet: video call your grandparents every day
- tasty treat: share it with your brother who had a bad day

Continued on the next day.



Extra Ideas

- stuffed animal: give it to a friend whose home was destroyed in a storm

Say: **These things are fun to have, but it is even better to serve someone else with them. Hannah wanted a child, but more than that, she wanted her child to serve God. She prayed, 'Lord, if You give me a son, I will give him to You. He will serve You all of his life.' God did give her a son! When Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to the tabernacle and worshiped God. Then she left Samuel with Eli to serve God. Jesus came to earth to do God's plan and serve God's people. We can find lots of ways to use the gifts we have to talk about the love of Jesus with others.**

PRAY THROUGH EMOTIONS // *Emotions cards*

You may do this activity as a large group or form smaller groups of children. Display the emotion cards face up. Invite a child to select an emotion card that represents how she feels. Ask her to talk about her feelings as much or as little as she would like.

Prompt her to pray and tell God how she feels. Encourage her that God loves to hear her pray about what she is feeling. Invite her to replace the emotion card and return to her seat.

Repeat with each child who is willing to participate.

Say: **In our Bible story today, Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. She prayed and told God how she felt. God cares about our feelings. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a man. He understands how we feel. We can pray to Him about anything.**