

PRE-K / K

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 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 WORSHIP // Song video: "Help, Help, Help" (other songs optional)

Welcome the children to your classroom and allow time to play as kids arrive. When most children have arrived for second service, ask the children to find a seat at one of the tables or the gathering area on the rug.

Sing an action song such as "Help, Help, Help" to engage the kids and help them feel welcomed. If your class enjoys singing, feel free to choose additional songs to sing together.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY // Dry erase board and marker, Bible, Spark Story Bible (on your counter)

Invite preschoolers to tell their prayer requests. List them on a dry erase board. Pray aloud for the requests listed. Say: **Today's Bible story is about a woman who prayed to God to give her a son. She wanted to be a mother. God heard her prayer and answered it. God hears us when we pray.**

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1-3. Remind the children that we know the stories are true because they are from God's Word: the Bible.

Today you are going to use 2 stories from the Spark Story Bible. The first story is "Hannah Prays for a Child" on pages 118-121. The second story is "God Calls Samuel" on pages 122-125. The stories will be divided by an activity related to the story. The words are printed in the lesson so that you may shorten the stories if they are too long for your kids. Show the pictures in the book to the children as you read/tell the story.

Read "Hannah Prays for a Child." **Hannah dreamed of having a baby to love and hold. She dreamed of singing lullabies to him until he fell asleep in her arms. But year after year passed and Hannah had no baby. Her friends laughed at her and called her names. Hannah cried and cried! Even though she was sad, Hannah prayed in the temple every day. She prayed, "Oh God, if you give me a son, I will make sure that he spends his life serving you!"**

Eli, the priest at the temple, watched Hannah as she prayed,. Her lips moved quickly, but she didn't make a sound. He thought this was very strange, so he said to her, "Stop acting so silly!" "Oh no, sir!" Hannah said, "I'm not acting silly. I'm praying to God because I want to have a baby." Eli looked into her eyes ad said to her, "Go in peace. God will give you what you're asking for."

Hannah trusted in God. Soon, her tears turned into joy. God gave her a son, and she named him Samuel. Hannah was so happy! She laughed and danced and kissed Samuel all over his little face. She sang lullabies to Samuel and held him close as he fell asleep. Soon it was time for Hannah to keep the promise she had made to God. When Samuel was still a boy, she took to the temple.

Continued on the next page.



Active Minds

She said, I'm the woman who was here praying to God for a baby. God gave me a son, Samuel. Now he will spend his life serving God." Samuel stayed at the temple with Eli. He grew and grew and grew, serving God every day of his life.

That is an amazing story. God hears our prayers!

MAKE A CARD // *Folded paper card for each child ("Thank you for taking care of me" will be printed on the inside of the card), crayons, stickers*

Say: **Just like Hannah loved and cared for her son, Samuel, there are people who love and take care of you.** Talk about what parents or caregivers do to take care of their children. **You are going to make a card that says: "Thank you for taking care of me."**

Give each child a card. Encourage children to use the folded paper to make cards to honor parents or caregivers. Guide the children to draw a picture on the front of their They may also use stickers to decorate the card. Be sensitive to preschoolers' family situations.

Say: **We made cards for people who help care for us. Parents and caregivers take care of their families. Hannah wanted a family, and she prayed to God for a son. Samuel was Hannah's son, and she cared for him.**

Let's read the next part of the story and find out what Samuel did as he grew up.

GOD CALLS SAMUEL // *Spark Story Bible (pages 122-125)*

The words in the story are printed below. Read the story from the book and show the pictures to the children.

Read "God Calls Samuel." **Samuel was a 12-year-old boy who lived in the temple with a priest named Eli and learned about God. Eli took care of Samuel, and Samuel helped take care of Eli because Eli was almost blind. One night something special happened. As Samuel slept in the temple he heard a voice call out, "Samuel." Samuel thought it was Eli calling, so he jumped up from his bed, "Here I am," Samuel answered as he ran to Eli. "I'm here because you called me." But Eli shook his head, "I didn't call you. GO back to your bed."**

Samuel did as he was told and fell asleep quickly. A little while later the voice called again, "Samuel." This time Samuel was more tired and crawled out of his bed more slowly. In Eli's room, Samuel rubbed his eyes, scratched his tummy, and said with a yawn, "I'm here because you called me." Eli was getting tired of Samuel coming into his room and said more firmly, "I didn't call you! Now please go back to bed!"

Continued on the next page.



Active Minds

When this happened a third time Eli thought to himself, Aha! It must be God who is calling Samuel!" Eli told Samuel, who was now very confused and sleepy, "If you are called again, just say, 'God, I hear you and I will do whatever you want.'" When the voice called again Samuel did as Eli told him. It was God! And God had many things to say to Samuel. Even though he was only 12, Samuel wanted to serve God. With God's help, Samuel grew up to share many messages from God. People all over Israel knew Samuel as God's trusted prophet.

PLAY A GUESSING GAME // One blanket or fabric to place on the floor

Select a volunteer to lie on the floor on a blanket. Instruct the child lying down to close his eyes. Select another child to say the child's name twice. The child lying on the floor will guess who is calling his name. Continue play, giving each child a chance to guess the caller or call out a name.

Say: **Was it hard to know who was calling your name? One night, Samuel was lying in the tabernacle and heard a voice saying, 'Samuel, Samuel.' At first, Samuel thought it was Eli calling him. Why do you think he thought Eli called him? It was the voice of God calling Samuel. God told Samuel that Eli's sons were disobeying Him. Samuel told Eli the message he heard from God. Samuel was God's messenger. He 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.**

KEY PASSAGE / BIG PICTURE QUESTION / SONG & PRAYER

// Key Passage Marker, Bible, Key Passage Poster, Key Passage song: "Gift of God", Big Picture Question Poster, song videos: "He is Faithful" and "The Love of God"

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE: Place the key passage marker at Romans 6:23. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read aloud the verse. Mention that Jesus died on the cross. Guide preschoolers to stretch out their arms to resemble the cross. Repeat the passage a few times. Prompt them to stretch out their arms to make a cross when mentioning Jesus' name. Use the Key Passage Poster and point to the words as you say the verse.

Say: **Jesus is God's Son and the Savior of the world. He made the way for us to go to heaven by dying on the cross for our sins. If we believe and trust in Jesus, we can live with God forever.**

Sing the key passage song "Gift of God (Romans 6:23)."

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Say: **Our big picture question we have been learning about is, What are the consequences for sin? We have learned that the consequence for sin is separation from God. But God sent His Son to take the punishment for our sin. If we believe in His Son, Jesus, and trust Him, we can live with God forever.** Refer to the poster.

Continued on the next page.



Open Hearts

RESPOND THROUGH SONG AND PRAYER: Say: **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.**

Sing "He Is Faithful" as the children move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "The Love of God."

Pray: **God, You love us and answer our prayers. Thank You for taking care of us. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Amen.**

DESIGN A ROBE // *"Samuel's Robe" activity page, crayons, washable markers, dot stickers*

Distribute the copies of "Samuel's Robe," crayons, washable markers and dot stickers. Invite preschoolers to design robes for Samuel by coloring and using the stickers to decorate them.

Say: **We worked hard to design our robes. Hannah dedicated her son, Samuel, to God. When he was old enough, she took Samuel to the tabernacle and left him with Eli, the priest, to serve God. Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe. Why do you think she brought him a new robe each year?** Pause for answers. **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.**

MISSIONS MOMENT // *Missionary card for the Geesey family*

The Geesey family, from LEFC, will be leaving this summer for Southeast Asia: Dan and Hannah, Micah (6), Adalyne (5), and Peter (3). 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.**

Have the children take turns telling others about Jesus. Help the kids to know what to say. For example, the children may say: "Jesus loves you," "Jesus is alive," or other phrases you want to share with them.



Extra Ideas

PLAY A GAME: I CAN PRAY // *One hula hoop, one beanbag*

Guide preschoolers to sit in a circle. Place a hula hoop on the floor in the middle of the circle. Instruct a preschooler to toss a beanbag into the hoop and say, **"I can pray."** Lead the other preschoolers to reply, **"God hears and answers our prayers."** Continue the game, allowing each child to toss the beanbag and say, "I can pray" while the others answer with, "God hears and answers our prayers."

Talk about prayer and different requests they have told God. Remind preschoolers that God hears our prayers and answers them.

Pray with preschoolers.

Say: **Prayer is talking to God. We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything. God always hears and answers our prayers. God does not always answer by doing what we ask; but He always answers by doing what is best. Hannah wanted to be a mother and was sad because she did not have any children. She prayed at the tabernacle and asked God to give her a son. Eli the priest was sitting nearby. He watched Hannah pray. Eli thought something was wrong with Hannah. Hannah told Eli that she was very sad and that she had been telling God how she felt. Like Hannah, we can tell God how we feel. He hears us. God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. She named him Samuel. He also gave her many more children. 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.**