

Hannah's Prayer

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Lesson Overview

Today, we're talking about a woman named Hannah. Hannah was really sad because she couldn't have kids. Back then, if you didn't have kids, you were an outcast. So, Hannah turned to God and prayed for a child. She knew that she couldn't make it happen on her own. God was going to have to perform a miracle. Hannah was so desperate for God to answer her prayer that she promised to do something. If God blessed her with a child, she would give the child back to God. God did answer her prayer and Hannah had a son named Samuel! When Samuel was around 3-4 years old, Hannah brought him to live with a priest named Eli who trained him to work in the temple. Can you imagine how hard that must have been for Hannah to let her son live somewhere else when she had waited so long to be a mom? It was really hard but here is why Hannah did it. First, she made a promise to God to do it. Second, she understood that God had given her the gift of a child so Samuel really belonged to God, not her. Here's what this story teaches us. We may hope for things, and will pray really hard to get them, but we may not always get the answer we want. We have to trust that God knows what's best.

Big Idea

When we pray, we need to trust God's answers.

Key Question

Why don't we have the power to answer our own prayers?

Memory Verse

1 Samuel 2:8 "God lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1. 2nd-5th puzzle key: Hannah, Pray, Samuel, Trust**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Make a wishlist of 3 things you hope to accomplish in your life. Why are those things important to you?**(Tip: Maybe you hope to find a cure for cancer or to be a professional athlete. We may have our wishlists but God knows what we really need.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because we aren't God.** (We might think that we're in control of our lives but we're not. We need to remember that God knows everything and he created each one of us. So, he knows what we need better than we do. Our job is to trust God no matter what.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why do we lack power to answer prayers? Why does God know what's best for us? **4-5th** Share a prayer request you have and how will you trust God to answer it the way he sees fit?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What are the 3 things this passage tells us to do? What will you do next time you really want God to answer your prayer?** (Answer: We should rejoice which is just another word for being happy, we should pray about everything and give thanks for all that God has done in our lives. If we do those things, then we'll be ready to accept how God chooses to answer our prayers.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: HANNAH PRAYS FOR A CHILD RELAY

Instructions:

- Before playing, tape two lines at one end of the room and two squares at the other end of the room. Divide the class into two teams and give each team the following items: Robe, baby doll, slippers.
- When you say, "Go!", have the teams race- each kid will take a turn putting on the robe and slippers and carrying the baby to the other end of the room to kneel in the square and then back. First team to finish, wins.
- If you have time, review the story of Hannah. Remind the kids that Hannah prayed to have a child and promised to give the child back to God if he answered her prayer. God did answer her prayer and gave her Samuel. Hannah kept her promise and brought Samuel to live in the temple when he was around 3-4 years old. When we have prayer requests, we need to trust that God will answer them the way he sees best, not necessarily the way we think he should.

Supplies needed: Tape, 2 sets of the following (robe, slippers, baby doll)

OPTION 2: HANNAH PRAYS FOR A CHILD CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Hannah template (page 5) and a half sheet of construction paper.
- Have the kids color Hannah and baby Samuel and have them glue them to the middle of the construction paper. Then have them glue the phrase at the top and the verse at the bottom of the paper.
- As they work, review the story of Hannah. Remind the kids that Hannah prayed to have a child and promised to give the child back to God if he answered her prayer. God did answer her prayer and gave her Samuel. Hannah kept her promise and brought Samuel to live in the temple when he was 3-4 years old. When we have prayer requests, we need to trust that God will answer them the way he sees best, not necessarily the way we think he should.

Supplies needed: Hannah template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Construction paper (halved, 1 half per kid), Glue, Crayons

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BIBLE STORYLINE

Hannah's Prayer

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When we pray, God will give us exactly what is best for us.

Key Points:

- Hannah couldn't have _____ and people made fun of her for it.
- Hannah promised that if she had a son, she would give him back to _____.
- God answered her _____, and Hannah kept her _____.
- There are some things in life that only _____ can give us.

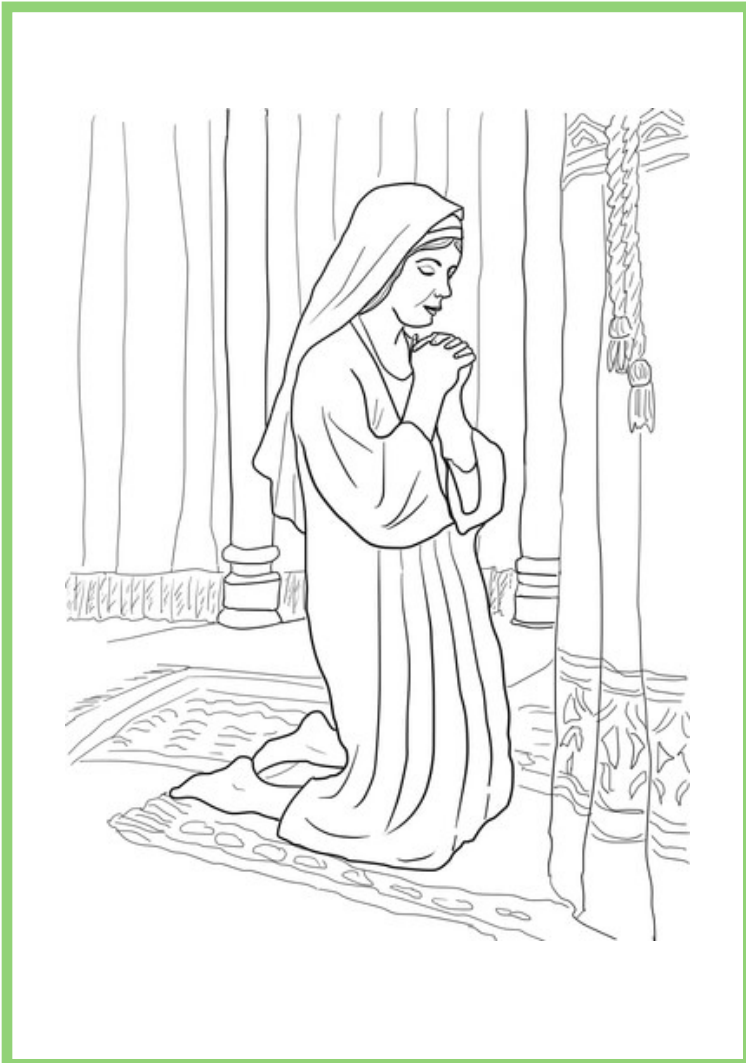
Memory Verse:

| 1 Samuel 2:8 God lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *Make a wishlist of 3 things you hope for in life?*
3. *What was Hannah sad about? What did Hannah promise God if he answered her prayer?*
4. *How old was Samuel when he went to live with Eli in the temple?*
5. *Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What are the three things this passage tells us to do? What will you do next time you really want God to answer your prayer?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture and solve the puzzle.



Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

1 Samuel 2: _____ " _____ lifts the
 _____ from the dust and the
 _____ from the garbage
 dump."

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

1. NNAAHH

2. YRAP

3. MLASEU

4. TSRTU



HANNAH PRAYED FOR
A SON AND GOD
ANSWERED

1 Samuel 2:8 "God lifts the
poor from the dust and the
needy from the garbage
dump."