

## Lesson #3-6

# *Hannah Promises Samuel to God*

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

PK-2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Key Verse:**

“There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.”

1 Samuel 2:2

### **The Point:**

God hears the prayers of everyone.

### **Making Connections:**

Promises Made, Promises Broken

### **Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Ancient History

### **Spiritual Practice:**

Worship



# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Story Centers (PK-K)

15 min.

#### Baby Dolls

Play with the babies.

† Baby dolls

#### Prayer Pillows

Kneel and pray.

† Pillows

#### Baby Storybooks

Browse baby pictures.

† Picture books about babies

### Into the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)

10 min.

#### A New Baby

Talk about the excitement of a new baby on the way.

† Picture books about babies  
† Optional: photos of babies

### Bible Nuts & Bolts (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>)

15 min.

#### Ancient History

Remember Grandma's and Grandpa's stories.

† Bible  
† Pictures of outdated technology

### Learning the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)

10 min.

#### Hannah and Samuel

Respond to a video about Hannah and Samuel.

† Bible  
† Internet-connected video player

# Activities a la Carte

## *Living the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

### *Ways We Worship*

Experiment with different forms of worship.

**15 min.**

† None

## *Singing the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

### *Hannah, Hannah*

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

**5 min.**

† None

## *Additional Activities*

### *Act it Out (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Dramatize the Bible story.

**15 min.**

† None

### *Keep Praying, Hannah (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Hannah prays and prays and prays.

**10 min.**

† None

### *Baby Food (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Prepare a snack for Samuel.

**10 min.**

† Paper plates  
† Plastic spoons  
† Napkins  
† Baby food  
† Apples  
† Knife

# Activities a la Carte

## *Additional Activities*

### *Bible Book (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Optional ongoing activity.

**5 min.**

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

### *Sending the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>)*

**5 min.**

- † Bubble solution and wands

# Background for Teachers

## Making Connections

Moses, born to a Hebrew mother who had to give him up to the Egyptians, later became a leader for God's people, the Israelites. We have seen how God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery and deliver God's commandments to the people. Eventually, Moses died and Joshua was called by God to lead the people. At this point the people were finally settled in one place. Today we meet Hannah, the wife of a Levite, who had been ridiculed for not having children. Hannah begged God for a son and promised to dedicate him to God's service. The child that she is blessed with and gives to God will one day lead God's people.

## Story Summary:

### ***Hannah Promises Samuel to God***

Hannah desperately wanted a son. In the society where she lived, women without children were seen as having little value. Year after year Hannah went to the temple and prayed for a son. Hannah promised that if God gave her a son, she would dedicate him to God's service. God heard Hannah's prayers and blessed Hannah with a son who would play an important role in biblical history. Hannah worshipped and praised God for hearing her prayer and blessing her with a child. Her song of praise parallels that of Mary when she was told she was carrying the Messiah.

## The Point

**God hears the prayers of everyone.** We may get caught up in the details of our own lives and forget that the needs of others go beyond our circle of friends. God does not forget others or their needs. Every person is important to God from the most popular to the unknown.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### ***Ancient History***

When we look back over our lives, we remember successes and failures and make decisions based on those life lessons. We can recall answered prayer as well as the times when we may have thought we could manage on our own without praying for God's help. We move forward in faith, with those experiences shaping how we handle the next challenges. The books in the Old Testament of the Bible, from Joshua through Esther, are part of what we call the "History Books." The stories in these books were not intended to be a purely factual account of what happened, like how we think of history today. Instead, the stories were written down a long time after these things had happened and remind the readers of God's continued involvement in the lives of the Israelites. The stories tell the people where they once were and how they got to where they are now. That knowledge can remind them of the wisdom in following and depending on God as they make current and future decisions.

## Spiritual Practice: Worship

Worship is any way that we show God our love. This might be singing, giving, praying, dancing, or some other creative form. Recall God's work in your life. Read 2 Samuel 2:1-10, and use that as a model to write (or speak) your own prayer song to God.

# Lesson Plan



## *Story Centers (PK-K; 15 minutes)*

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

### ***Baby Dolls***

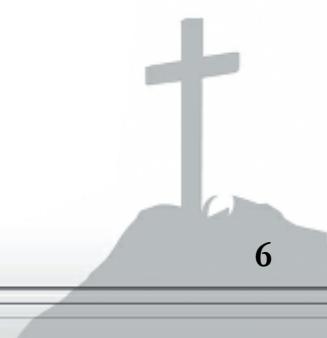
Hannah wanted a baby. Let the students play with baby dolls.

### ***Prayer Pillows***

Set out pillows for the students to kneel on and say prayers, like they might before bed. They can play and then pray, play and then pray, etc. Hannah prayed and prayed.

### ***Baby Story Books***

If you do not have access to picture books about babies, check some out from the public library. Allow the students to browse through the pictures of babies.



# *Into the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 10 minutes)*

## *A New Baby*

Talk about the excitement of a new baby on the way.

*You will need:*

- † Picture books about babies
- † Optional: photos of babies

*Before class:*

1. Borrow books about babies from the library.
2. Optional: gather baby pictures of you or your students (if applicable).
3. Optional: make arrangements with the baby room or nursery attendant at your church for the students to take a peek at the babies.
4. Optional: invite a congregant who is pregnant to visit the classroom. Ask her to share her excitement about the baby, including all she is doing to prepare for the baby's arrival.

*During class:*

1. Invite any interested students to hold a baby doll during this activity.
2. **Have any of you ever been a baby? [Yes.] Do you remember what it was like? What did you eat? Where did you sleep? What did you do? [Answers will vary.]**
3. **Are any of you mommies? [No.]**
4. **Many people hope to be mommies or daddies someday. They want the joy of loving a baby and watching it grow to be an adult.**
5. Nursery option: **We are going to take a little walk to take a quick peek at the babies in the nursery. We will hold hands the whole time, so our hands will not touch the babies.** (You may even look at the babies through a window.) When looking at the babies, ask the students to tell you what they like most about the babies. When you return to the room end with step 8 below.
6. Visitor option: set out a chair for the guest. **Students, this is (name of mother-to-be) and she is going to tell us about something exciting that is going to happen in her life.** The mother-to-be will share. End with step 8 below.
7. If you are not using either of the options listed in steps 4 or 5, show some pictures of babies from the picture books used in the story centers, or share your own photos. **What do you see in these pictures of babies? [Answers will vary.]**
8. **Today we are going to hear a story about Hannah, a woman who wanted very much to have a baby of her own.**

# *Bible Nuts & Bolts (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>; 15 minutes)*

## *Ancient History*

Remember Grandma's and Grandpa's stories.

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Pictures of outdated technology

*Before class:*

1. Place a bookmark at the first page of Joshua and another at the end of Esther.
2. Gather pictures of outdated technology: typewriter, dial phone, pay phone, ice box, etc.

*During class:*

1. **Grandparents, great-grandparents, or other older adults can tell us stories about where they worked or lived a long time ago. A lot of what they did growing up is different from the way we live today. They might tell of hard times and of funny times.**
2. **What stories have you heard from older adults about when they were younger?**
3. Show items or pictures of items that are outdated to today's students: dial phone, typewriter, pay phone, etc. With each, ask, **“Do you know what this is?”**
4. **When we hear and learn about these things from the past, we learn history. Let us say the word “history.” History helps us understand how we got to where we are today. We find out about the hard work of others that got us where we are today. We also learn that we can work hard too.**
5. **Today's Bible story is found in 1 Samuel, in the section of the Bible called the “History Books.” Show the range of pages that you marked in your Bible before class. All of these pages are the history books. The stories in these books teach people about how they got to where they are now. They also show us how God works in people's lives a long time ago, so we can see how God can work in our lives today.**

# Learning the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 10 minutes)

## *Hannah and Samuel*

Respond to a video about Hannah and Samuel.

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Internet-connected video player

*Before class:*

1. Do an Internet search for a video about “Hannah gives birth to Samuel” and choose an appropriate video.
2. Cue the video.

*During class:*

1. Hold your Bible open to 1 Samuel. **We are going to watch a video of a story that is in the Bible. It is the story of a lady named Hannah. During the video, when you hear something sad or bad, make a thumbs down. When you hear something exciting or good, make a thumbs up.**
2. Show the video.
3. **Hannah and her husband were happy together, but Hannah was sad about something. What made Hannah sad? [She did not have a baby.]**
4. **How was Hannah treated by another woman who had children? [The other woman was mean to her.]**
5. **Where did Hannah go for help? [To God, to pray to God at the temple tent.]**
6. **What promise did Hannah make to God? [If God gave her a baby, she would give the baby back to God's service.]** At this point explain that Hannah would love her baby, but out of love for God and for her baby, she promised God to raise her son in the temple where he would learn to serve God for the rest of his life. She promised to raise her son to love, follow, and serve God forever.
7. **What did God do about Hannah's prayer? [God answered her prayer.]**
8. **What did Hannah do about her promise to God? [Hannah kept her promise to God.]**
9. **Did Hannah still love her son after she gave him back to God? [Yes, she visited him and made him a coat each year.]**
10. **God cares about every single person and hears the prayers that are prayed.**

# *Living the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 15 minutes)*

## *Ways We Worship*

Experiment with different forms of worship.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

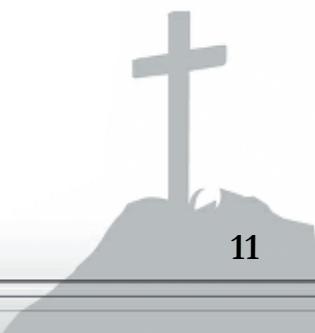
1. When we worship, we show our love to God. We can worship through song, through praise, through dance, through playing music, through acts of kindness, or through giving time or things for God's work. We can worship standing, sitting, and even with our face down on the floor. Some people worship with hands raised, and others worship by being very still and serious.
2. We are going to worship God in many ways.
3. Tap your hands on the table (or floor) to make a drum beat while you say each word in, "I love you God." This time, tap your hand one time on each word except "love". When you get to "love", tap four times. This time tap your hand one time on each word except "you". When you get to the word "you", tap four times.
4. We just worshipped God by playing our handmade drums.
5. Form a circle and hold hands. If a student does not want to hold hands or is sick, suggest another way for them to participate.
6. When I say, "Praise God," keep your hands held, and lift them up high. Then bring them back down. Praise God! God is good to us. Praise God! God loves everyone, the rich and the poor, the famous and the unknown. Praise God.
7. We just worshipped by raising our hands in praise.
8. Sit up tall in a chair. Fold your hand on your lap. Pray a quiet prayer to tell God that God is great.
9. You just had a more serious and quiet time of worship.
10. We can worship God in many ways and in many places. What are some other ways that you think we can worship God? [Helping others, singing, etc.] If there is time, consider trying out some of the students' suggestions.

## *Singing the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

### *Hannah, Hannah*

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

Hannah, Hannah said a prayer.  
Our God heard the words she shared.  
God answered her from up on high.  
She had a baby by and by.  
Hannah, Hannah said a prayer.  
Our God heard the words she shared.



## *Additional Activities*

### *Act it Out (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 15 minutes)*

Dramatize the Bible story.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. In this activity, each student will dramatize the story, playing all of the roles. They will repeat your actions. The first time through include the words. Run through this a few times, and if there is enough time left, ask for an older student volunteer to tell the story and lead the actions.
2. **Listen closely as I tell you a story. When you see me perform an action, repeat what you see.**
3. **There was once a woman named Hannah. Hannah was very sad.** (Wring hands at eyes and frown to symbolize crying)
4. **Hannah prayed and prayed.** (Bow head and fold hands, stop, bow head and fold hands again.)
5. **Hannah wanted a baby, but for years and years she did not have a baby. Hannah was very sad.** (Wring hands at eyes and frown to symbolize crying.) **Hannah prayed and prayed some more.** (Bow head and fold hands, stop, bow head and fold hands again.)
6. **A woman named Peninnah made fun of Hannah.** (Point finger and laugh.)
7. **Hannah still wanted a baby, but she still did not have one. Hannah was very sad.** (Wring hands at eyes and frown to symbolize crying.) **She kept on praying. Hannah prayed and prayed some more.** (Bow head and fold hands, stop, bow head and fold hands again.) **Peninnah kept on making fun of Hannah** (Point finger and laugh.)
8. **Then, something wonderful happened! Hannah prayed and prayed.** (Bow head and fold hands, stop, bow head and fold hands again.)
9. **And God answered Hannah's prayer. Praise God!** (Jump up and down.)
10. **Hannah knew that God hears the prayers of those who some people might look down on people like her.**

## *Keep Praying, Hannah (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 15 minutes)*

Hannah prays and prays and prays.

*You will need:*

- † Nothing

*During class:*

1. Divide the class into groups of two.
2. **One student will kneel with prayer hands, and that will be Hannah. The other will sit or stand nearby, and that will be an encourager.**
3. When the Hannahs hear the words “Hannah prayed,” they will say “Lord, hear my prayer.”
4. When the encouragers hear the words “Hannah did not have a son”, they will gently tap Hannah’s shoulder and say, “Keep praying, Hannah.”
5. When you hear that “God answered Hannah’s prayer,” everyone should stand and say, “Hallelujah, praise God!”
6. We will go through this whole activity twice, so everyone will get a chance to be Hannah, and everyone will get a chance to be an encourager. This will be good practice for us in real life when we are praying and waiting for God to answer and when we know others are praying and waiting for answers.
7. Hannah was very, very sad. Hannah did not have a son. *[Keep praying, Hannah.]*
8. Hannah prayed. *[Lord, hear my prayer.]* Hannah asked God for a baby.
9. Time passed and still, Hannah did not have a son *[Keep praying, Hannah.]*
10. Hannah cried. Hannah prayed. *[Lord, hear my prayer.]*
11. Another year went by, and Hannah did not have a son. *[Keep praying, Hannah.]*
12. Hannah did not eat. She was too sad to eat. Hannah went to the tabernacle. Hannah prayed. *[Lord, hear my prayer.]*
13. Still, Hannah did not have a son. *[Keep praying, Hannah.]*
14. For years, Hannah prayed. *[Lord, hear my prayer.]*
15. Then Hannah was blessed with a son. God heard Hannah’s prayer. *[Hallelujah, praise God!]*
16. Never give up when you are praying, because God always hears and always answers, just not always right away or the way we think God will. Encourage others to keep on praying, too.

## *Baby Food (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 10 minutes)*

Prepare a snack for Samuel.

*You will need:*

- † Paper plates
- † Plastic spoons
- † Napkins
- † Baby food
- † Apples
- † Knife

*Before class:*

1. Purchase baby food (pumpkin or sweet potato, plum, peach, banana).
2. Slice apples.
3. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

*During class:*

1. **God met the desires of Hannah's heart by giving her a son. Hannah kept her promise to God by dedicating her son, Samuel, to God's service. Hannah fed and raised Samuel until he was old enough to serve God at the tabernacle.**
2. **We have several jars of baby food and some apple slices. What snack would you prepare for Samuel to help him grow strong and healthy? Choose a flavor or flavors and put some on your plate.**
3. **What words would you tell Samuel about God to prepare his heart for loving and serving God? [Answers will vary but might include: telling Samuel that God answered Hannah's prayer, that God loves him, that God is good, etc.]**
4. Snack on the apples dipped in baby food.
5. **Take good care of yourselves, and eat good food, so you will be healthy and strong to serve God.**

## *Bible Book (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

Optional ongoing activity.

*You will need:*

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

*Before class:*

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

*During class:*

1. Pass out Bible Book pages.
2. Read the bottom of the Bible Book page aloud, reminding students of what they learned in the lesson.
3. Have them put their names on their pages, and draw a picture of something they particularly liked or remember from story in the middle of the page.
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

## *Sending the Story (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5 minutes)*

- Who was sad in today's story? [Hannah.]
- What did God do for her? [Gave her a son.]
- How did Hannah feel after God heard her prayers? [Happy.]

*You will need:*

† Bubble solution and wands

**We are going to worship God and celebrate Hannah's answered prayer by blowing soap bubbles.**

Play a familiar worship song while the students worship and celebrate by blowing bubbles.

## *Prayer*

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

**Thank you, God, for answering Hannah's prayer. Thank you that you hear everyone's prayers. We worship you and praise you for being a God who hears our prayers. Amen.**



# *Hannah Promises Samuel to God*

**1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10**

## *The Point:*

**God hears the prayers of everyone.**





# The Story@Home

PK-2<sup>nd</sup>

## Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-6

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

## Last Week

God leads the people of Israel out of Egypt and gives them instructions on how to live God's way. But, the people disobey right away by worshipping a statue of a calf (Exodus 32:1-14).

## This Week

A woman named Hannah did not have children, but God promised to give her a son. That son, Samuel grows up to become a great leader (1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10).

## The Point

God hears the prayers of everyone.

## Story Summary

### Hannah Promises Samuel to God

Hannah desperately wanted a son. In the time and place she lived, women without children were ridiculed and thought to have little value. Hannah asked God to bless her with a son, but the answer of "yes" did not come right away. Year after year Hannah went to the temple and prayed for a son. Hannah promised that if God gave her a son, she would give him back to God by dedicating him to God's service. God heard Hannah's prayers and blessed Hannah with a son who would play an important role in biblical history. Hannah worshipped and praised God for hearing her prayer and blessing her with a child.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts

### Ancient History

The books in the Old Testament of the Bible, from Joshua through Esther, are part of what we call the "History Books." The stories in these books were not intended to be a purely factual account of what happened, like how we think of history today. Instead, they remind the readers of God's involvement in the lives of the Israelites. That knowledge can remind them of the wisdom in following God as they make decisions.

## Practice: Worship

Worship is any way that we show God our love. Hannah sang a song of praise to God for answering her prayer. Look through a hymnal, song book, or online to find a song or chorus with words that are meaningful to your family. Sing that song to God. Or make a list of things that God has done in your family's life and sing that list—with thanks—to God.

## Next Week

Samuel becomes a great leader and anoints David as king of Israel. David does many great things. But, when he wants to build a house for God, God promises that David's house would rule Israel forever (2 Samuel 7:1-17).

## Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- † Share a time when you prayed and did not receive an answer right away.
- † What kinds of words do you pray to God when you desperately want a prayer to be answered?
- † What should we do while we are waiting for God's answer to our prayers?

## Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

### Sunday—Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Hannah promised God that if given a son, she would give the son back to God. Find in the house an item of sentimental or monetary value. Give it to a family member. Allow the family member hold it briefly and give it back.

### Monday—Read 1 Samuel 3:1-18

God called Samuel to be a prophet. At first Samuel did not realize that it was God's voice calling him because he did not know God yet. Call some friends or family members on the phone. Take turns saying hello and then tell them about Hannah and Samuel without identifying yourself. Do they recognize your voice?

### Tuesday—Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22

Even though God is the King of Kings, the Israelites demanded a human king. Samuel warned of the demands a human king might make, but the people still insisted on a king. Take turns sitting in a chair (throne). Tell the family what you will expect from them when you are king of the house.

### Wednesday—Read 1 Samuel :27; 10:1-9

Samuel poured oil on Saul's head and told him that when God's spirit comes upon him, he will be changed. He will have a new heart that loves and serves God. Make a crown out of paper. Draw a picture of a heart on another paper. Pick one child. Put the crown on the child's head and the heart on their chest. Repeat for each child.

### Thursday—Read 1 Samuel 13:2-14

Rather than waiting for God to help, when Samuel did not return in the designated time, Saul took matters into his own hands. His disobedience led to the end of his reign. Find a simple snack recipe with limited ingredients. Part of the family will follow the directions while the others do their own thing. Compare the final product.

### Friday—Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The young men whom others expected to become king was not the one God chose. God knew David's heart and had Samuel anoint young David, the shepherd boy, as king. Take the youngest child in the family, raising the child high up on your shoulders, and march around the room.

### Saturday—Read 1 Samuel 24:4-12, 16-20

Even though Saul was out to kill David, when David had the chance he did not harm Saul. Build a cave out of cushions or pillows. One child wearing a robe will rest in the cave. Another will go in with his fists made, but will simply touch the robe and leave.