

# Lesson #3-6

## *Hannah Promises Samuel to God*

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

3rd-6th

### **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

### Into the Story

#### Family Size

Identify big and small families.

10 min.

† None

### Bible Nuts & Bolts

#### Ancient History

Sharing personal history to see ancient history's value.

10 min.

† Bibles

† Optional: short video recordings of church members

### Learning the Story

#### Samuel is Promised to God

Modernize Hannah's sorrow to joy story.

15 min.

† None

### Living the Story

#### Songs of Praise

Songs of praise are written and used in worship.

15 min.

† Bibles

† Activity Sheet #3-6.A

† Pens or pencils

### Additional Activities

#### Samuel Comic

Create a comic strip of today's story.

15 min.

† Bibles

† Activity Sheet #3-6.B

† Pens or pencils

† Colored pencils

# Activities a la Carte

## *Additional Activities*

### *There is No Holy One like the Lord*

Identify the characteristics of God in Hannah's song.

*15 min.*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-6.C
- † Pens or pencils
- † Scissors

### *Act it Out*

Children use sock puppets to act out today's Bible story.

*15 min.*

- † Bibles
- † Socks
- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

### *Bible Book*

Optional ongoing activity.

*5 min.*

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

### *Sending the Story*

*5 min.*

- † Smooth, large rocks
- † Nail polish

# 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



## *Into the Story (10 minutes)*

### *Family Size*

Identify big and small families.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. The average family in America has three children, but some have none and some have a lot more. Some families include step brothers and sisters. How many children are in your family? How many are boys? How many are girls? Do you know anyone who has a lot of children in their family? Do you know anyone who has no children in the family? *[Answers will vary.]*
2. Did you know that the average cat can have about twelve kittens in one year? This means that a cat could have a total of 180 kittens during her lifetime. What would it be like if that were the same for people? Imagine having 180 children in your family! That would be a lot of brothers and sisters to share your room with!
3. Just as it is hard to imagine 180 brothers and sisters, for parents who want to have a child, it is very hard to imagine that they may never have one.
4. A long time ago, when the people we read about in the Bible were alive, having a child was very important. A male child carried on the family's name and inherited the family's land, possessions, and blessings. Women who did not have children were often led to feel worthless, as their main role in the family at that time was to give birth. Men without sons felt they had no one to leave their belongings to or to carry on the family name, so the women may have felt they let the family down. Unfortunately, the women may have been ridiculed by others who had babies. We are going to hear about a situation like this today.



# Bible Nuts & Bolts (10 minutes)

## Ancient History

Sharing personal history to see ancient history's value.

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Optional: short video recordings of church members

*Before class:*

1. Capture on video (or recall) a few periods of your life and God's activity during those times (things the students can relate to). Prepare to share these with the students.
2. Optional: invite a few church members to come in and briefly share stories where they look back and recall God's activity in their lives. If they are not able to come in person, a video of a few minutes will work nicely.

*During class:*

1. **It can be fun to hear about the life experiences of others. Sometimes their life experiences are an encouragement to us as we live our lives.**
2. Optional: if you have invited others or have videos to show, share those stories now.
3. Share your own story in person or through video.
4. **Knowing and sharing stories like these can help us see God's work. We are able to see how those who lived the stories got to where they are today, with God's help. We can think about how God will help us as we live our lives.**
5. **Today's story is found in 1 Samuel, a book in the section of the Bible called the "History Books". Help the students locate 1 Samuel in the Bible. The History Books go all the way from Joshua through Esther. Help the students locate Joshua, hold that place, and then locate Esther. All of the pages in the middle hold the histories.**
6. **You might learn history in school where you are asked to memorize dates and facts that answer questions like "Who was the first U.S. president?" There is much more to the History Books in the Bible than just learning facts to recite. They contain stories that help us see God's work in a way that we can relate to. The stories in the History Books teach us about Israel's life as a nation. We read about God's presence with the people through their difficult journeys. We can learn from what we read that we can count on God to be there with us through our life, too. These stories help us know the deeper meaning in the Israelites' history; past, present, and future, so we can know that we can count on God through all the parts of our past, present, and future.**

# Learning the Story (15 minutes)

## *Samuel Is Promised to God*

Modernize Hannah's sorrow to joy story.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. There was once a woman who was lonely and sad even though she had a husband who loved her dearly. The problem was that she had no children. In those days, some men had more than one wife. Hannah's husband Elkanah had two wives, but he loved her the most. She felt like she was letting him down by not giving him a son. The other wife, Peninnah, had a number of sons and daughters. Peninnah teased Hannah for not having children. Hannah felt ashamed. She felt worthless to her husband and her family. She felt lowly in her community. It was important to Hannah that she have a son.

Hannah prayed year after year for God to give her a child. She felt deep sorrow for a long, long time. Her husband asked why she would not eat and why she wept. One day Eli the priest saw Hannah praying silently at the tabernacle. He thought she was drunk because her mouth was moving, but he could not hear the words. Hannah told him why she was so sad. Hannah prayed a promise to God. She promised that if God gave her a son, she would give the son back to God by dedicating her child to the Lord's service. The priest said, "May God answer your prayers."

God heard Hannah's prayers. God blessed Hannah with a son, and Hannah rejoiced. God had not forgotten Hannah. God saw her sorrow. God answered her prayer. Hannah kept her promise and dedicated her son Samuel to God's service. This story is in the Book of 1 Samuel in the Old Testament of the Bible.

2. Why would someone who wanted a baby so much promise to give her baby to God? [It would be an honor to glorify God for blessing her.]
3. What does that tell us about Hannah's trust in God and love for God? [Hannah trusted God to answer her prayers; Hannah trusted her son's life to God's care.]

4. **What does God's response tell us about God's love for Hannah, an ordinary woman who was seen by others as lowly for not having had children?** *[God cares and loves everyone, regardless of their difficulties in life.]*
5. **How might this story of sorrow to joy sound if the situation was happening today? For example, how might this story sound if the person praying was a child in an orphanage or in foster care?** *[Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of story.]*
6. **What if this was a story of a person who was separated from the rest of the family for some reason?** *[Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of the story.]*
7. **What if this story was about a child living in poverty?** *[Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of the story.]*
8. **What if this story was about parents who were out of work?** *[Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of the story.]*
9. **God cares about all people today just as much as God cared about Hannah many years ago. God hears everyone's prayers. Everyone is valued by God.**

# *Living the Story (15 minutes)*

## *Songs of Praise*

Songs of praise are written and used in worship.

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-6.A
- † Pens or pencils

*Before class:*

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #3-6.A for each student.

*During class:*

1. Worship is any way that we show God our love. This might be singing, giving, praying, dancing, or some other creative form of expressing our love for God to God. In 1 Samuel 2:1-10, we read Hannah's worshipful prayer that reads like a song.
2. Using Hannah's prayer song as a model, write your own songs of praise to God. We will read your prayer songs as a form of worship. Do not worry. You do not have to be a songwriter to do this. If you are not comfortable reading but will let someone else read your prayer song, that is okay, so please do not let the thought of reading this aloud later keep you from focusing on writing from your heart now.
3. Distribute one copy of Activity Sheet #3-6.A to each student.
4. Open your Bibles to 1 Samuel 2:10. You can review these verses if you want to see an example. You are welcome to modernize yours.
5. Use the prompts on the Activity Sheet #3-6.A to help you write your prayer song. Your song can be the answers to the questions, one after the next, or you can add more words along with the answers to write your prayer song.
6. When the students are done, invite them to share their prayer songs in a time of worship. If someone does not want to read, you or another student can read. If someone does not want to share the prayer song at all, allow the student to keep what was written private. In either case, when it is the student's turn, that student can say, "We worship you, God."

## *Additional Activities*

### *Samuel Comic (15 minutes)*

Create a comic strip of today's story.

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-6.B
- † Pens or pencils
- † Colored pencils

*Before class:*

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #3-6.B per student.

*During class:*

1. Distribute Activity Sheet #3-6.B.
2. **Hannah's story is one that goes from deep sorrow to great joy. We are going to make comic strips, where you may choose to create a comic of today's Bible story, or you may use an experience from real life today that illustrates today's Bible story. Headings are already written in each frame for you, but you are welcome to cross them out and write your own if you choose.**
3. After the comic strips are done, those who are comfortable doing so can pass the strips around the room for everyone to enjoy.
4. **Keep your comics as a reminder of how God can bring joy into your life, no matter who you are.**
5. Note: if you prefer to use technology do an Internet search for "comic strip creator."

## *There is No Holy One Like the Lord (15 minutes)*

Identify the characteristics of God in Hannah's song.

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-6.C
- † Pens or pencils
- † Scissors

*Before class:*

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #3-6.C per student.
2. Optional: cut out the music notes.

*During class:*

1. Divide the students into groups. Distribute copies of Activity Sheet #3-6.C and ask the students to cut out the music notes. (Optional: you may choose to cut these yourself before class.)
2. **Each team will work together to solve the puzzle. I will ask a question. You will find the answers as a team and then each team member will write the answer on a music note. There are five questions, and each answer is one of the many attributes of God that Hannah speaks of in her prayer song.**
3. **The first team that has all of the answers will be asked to present the answers as I read the questions. To answer, each team member will hold up the correct music note and sing the word on the note.**
4. After the activity is over say: **There is no Holy One like the Lord.**

**In 1 Samuel 2:1-4, Hannah prayed and said,**

1. The Lord is the *[Holy]* One.
2. There is no *[Rock]* like our God.
3. The Lord is a God of *[knowledge]*.
4. The Lord *[weighs]* actions.
5. The Lord brings *[life]*.

## *Act it Out (15 minutes)*

Students use sock puppets to act out today's Bible story.

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Socks
- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

*During class:*

1. Divide the class into groups of five.
2. **Use these socks as puppets** (put your hand in a sock and show your fingers moving in the toe of the sock to appear like a mouth is moving). **Something as lowly as what we wear on our feet will be used to tell a story of something great that God did in the life of someone considered by many to be lowly. As a group, you will decide how to act out the story of Hannah.**
3. **First, how many characters will you need? Who will they be? [Hannah, Eli, Elkanah, Peninnah, narrator].**
4. **As a group, decide which person's puppet will play each character.**
5. **Use the puppets to act out the story the way you imagined it when you heard the story today. A hint might be to plan the show in the order that things took place in the Bible story. What are some of things that took place first, second, third, and so on? [Hannah did not have a baby and was sad, Peninnah teased her, Hannah prayed and prayed, Hannah made a promise, God answered Hannah's prayer, Hannah prayed a song of worship and praise.]**
6. **Plan the lines. What words do you think were spoken? The Bible does not record every single word. You can write the words down to make a script or just practice and remember the lines. The puppet show will be fairly short.**
7. When the groups have planned and practiced their puppet shows, each group can present a show to the rest of the class.
8. After the shows are performed, ask: **If you were Hannah, what would you want to tell others about God? [Answers will vary.]**
9. Remind the students that **God hears the prayers of everyone, from the well-known to the people we do not know.**

## *Bible Book (5 minutes)*

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Optional ongoing activity.

*You will need:*

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † 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. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**  
*[Answers will vary.]*
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
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 (5 minutes)*

God hears the prayers of the forgotten and cares for those who people look down on.

- Who was the forgotten in this story? *[Hannah.]*
- Why did others see her as having less value? *[She did not have any children.]*
- What did God do for her? *[Gave her a son.]*

*You will need:*

- † Smooth, large rock(s)
- † Nail polish

**Using nail polish on this rock, write or paint one word that you think of most when you think of God.** There may need to be several large rocks in the room depending on the number of students present.

### *Prayer*

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

After the above activity, lead the class in praying the Bible verse: 1 Samuel 2:2.

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

# *Songs of Praise*

*Songs of praise are written and used in worship.*

<b>Questions to Help you Write</b>	<b>Your Song of Praise</b>
What does your heart rejoice in?	
How do you describe God?	
What are your feelings toward God?	
What has God done for you?	
What will you count on God to do for you?	
What are some praise words?	
What can you say to thank God?	



# *Samuel Comic*

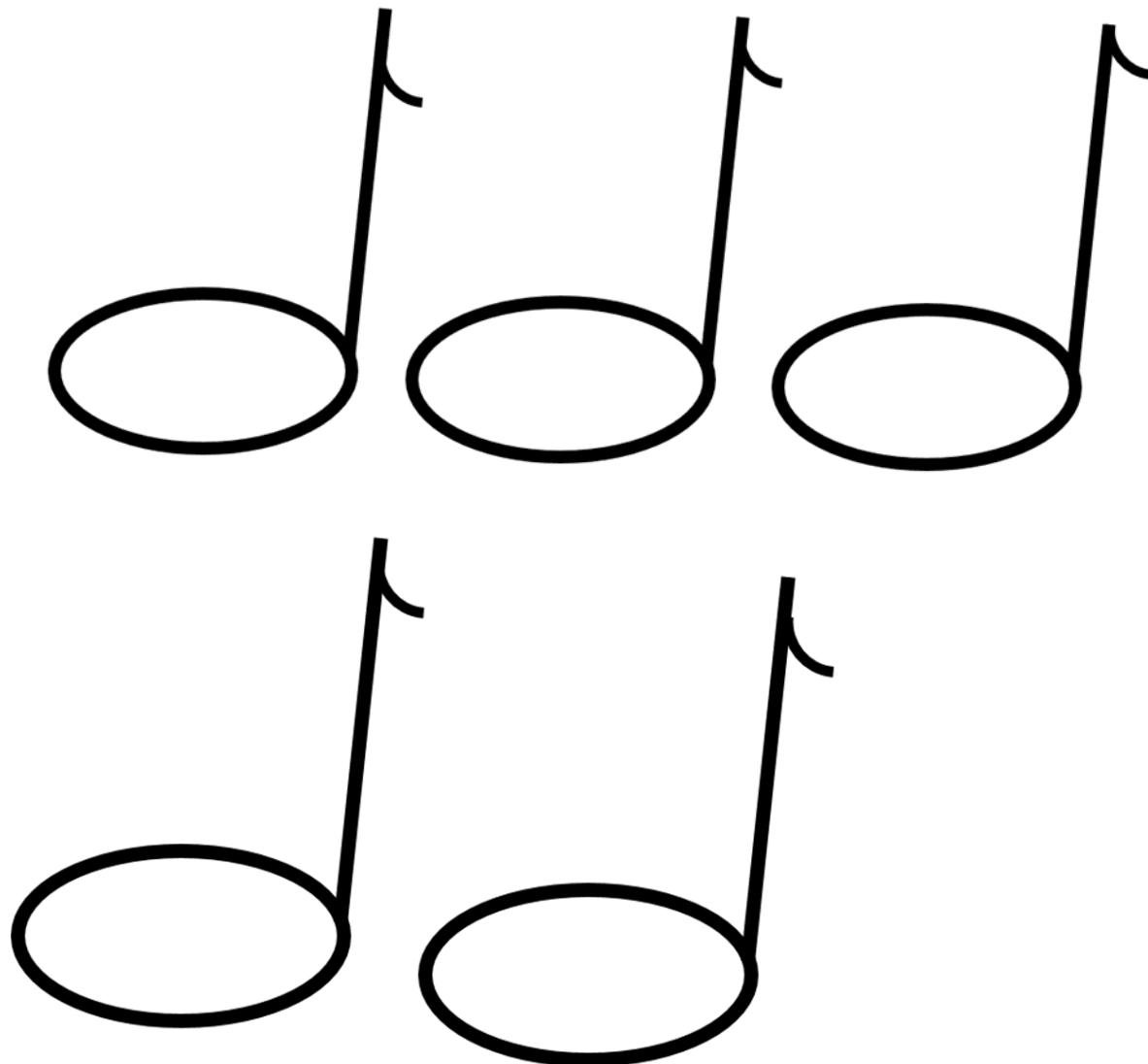
*Create a comic strip of today's story.*

		Ridicule and Heartache
	Prayer	Promise Made
Answered Prayer	Praise and Worship	Promise Kept



# *There is No Holy One Like the Lord*

*Identify the characteristics of God in Hannah's song.*



**In 1 Samuel 2:1-4, Hannah prayed and said,**

The Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_ One.

There is no \_\_\_\_\_ like our God.

The Lord is a God of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ actions.

The Lord brings \_\_\_\_\_.



# *Hannah Promises Samuel to God*

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

*I Learned:*

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# The Story @ Home

3rd-6th

## 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 9:27; 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 the 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 who 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.