

LESSON 51

# God Hears Hannah's Prayers

1 SAMUEL 1:1–2:11



**BIBLE TRUTH**

THROUGH HANNAH'S PRAYERS AND THE PROMISE SHE KEPT,  
A PROPHET CAME TO ISRAEL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

**1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Cut out magazine pictures of things the children might pray for (for example, a family, toys, food, and clothing)

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 51)

**3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**Where Is Jesus?**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

**4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Snack food/water

**5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

**6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Page 51**

**SUPPLIES:** markers/crayons

**Flannelgraph of Hannah**

**SUPPLIES:** flannelgraph characters to tell Hannah’s story

**Turning for Help**

**Giving up Your Son**

**SUPPLIES:** basket of small individually wrapped candies (enough for everyone to have one)

**7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60-75 MIN**

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God answers the prayers of his people.

Bring to class cutout magazine pictures of things the children might pray for (e.g., a family, toys, food, and clothing).

To open class, ask:

**Have any of you ever prayed for something?**

*(Have children raise hands or accept any answer.)*

**Did you receive what you asked for?**

*(Have children raise hands or accept any answer.)*

**Why don’t we always get what we ask for?**

*(We often pray for things that we want more than we want God. God often does not give us things that would distract us from serving him. Read James 4:3 NIV: “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”)*

Show the pictures one by one and ask, “Which things might draw our attention away from God?” Help the children to see that we should pray to God for what we need but also pray that we would not be captured by those things. Read Matthew 6:31–34.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 51, “God Hears Hannah’s Prayers,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

**What happened in this story?**

*(Hannah was sad that she did not have a son, so she prayed to God, and he granted her request.)*

**Why did Hannah pray to God?**

*(She wanted God to give her a son.)*

**What did Hannah have that helped her to believe that God could do anything?**

*(Hannah had faith. Faith is the word that describes our belief in God.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

**What is prayer?**

*(Prayer is talking to God. It can be a request like Hannah's; it can be praising God; it can be sharing your struggles with him.)*

**Have any of you had God answer one of your prayers?**

*(Accept any answer drawing out the students.)*

**Why should we pray to God?**

*(The Bible tells us to pray continually [1 Thessalonians 5:17] and to pray for a variety of reasons, such as when we are in trouble [James 5:13].)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

## Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Acts 3:24

Samuel is specifically mentioned in the book of Acts as a prophet whose life and message pointed to Jesus.

In our story, Hannah cried out to the Lord to give her a son and committed him to the Lord for God's service. Little did she realize her little boy would be used to anoint the first two kings of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul and thus established anointing as God's means of indicating his choice. Later Samuel anointed David, out of whose household the Savior would be born.

### ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20-30 MIN

#### Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:**

coloring page 51—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

**What do you think helped Hannah have faith in God?**

*(Hannah knew what the Lord had previously done for her people when he brought them out of Egypt and gave them victory in battles. Surely, the Lord could give Hannah a son.)*

**What can help us to have strong faith in our God?**

*(Reading the Bible stories of what God has done in the past helps us to know that he is all-powerful and able to do anything.)*

## Flannelgraph of Hannah

### SUPPLIES:

flannelgraph set of Hannah's story

In advance reread the story of Hannah and her husband's other wife, Peninnah. Notice how Peninnah made fun of Hannah for not having children.

In class retell the story to the children using the flannelgraph. Be sure to highlight the hurtful words Peninnah used by imitating her tone. Ask the children the following questions:

What do you think of what Peninnah did to Hannah?

Can anyone think of a Bible verse we could use to help Peninnah?

*(Help the children memorize Colossians 4:6: "Let your speech always be gracious.")*

## Turning for Help

Show the children how Hannah was sad and in need of help to relieve her sadness. Be sure they see that she turned to God for help but that God used a man, Eli, to express God's help to her.

Ask the children if they have ever prayed to God for help. Then, ask them whom might God use to give them help. The point here is to help them see their parents as tools in the hands of God. Encourage them to pray as Hannah did. Also, encourage them to look for God to provide much of his answered prayer through their parents.

## Giving up Your Son

### SUPPLIES:

small, individually wrapped candies, one for each child (be aware of any food allergies before using this object lesson)

basket

Pass around a basket of candy, and tell everyone to take a piece and set it on the table or desk in front of them. Ask them what they like about what you gave them.

Now ask for volunteers who are willing to give up their piece of candy and put it back in the basket.

Talk about how difficult it is for the children to consider giving up their candy. Then connect their struggle with Hannah giving up her son to God to serve in the temple. Finally, connect her giving up of Samuel to God's giving up of his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

**PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 51 - GOD HEARS HANNAH'S PRAYERS

