

**GOD HEARD HANNAH'S PRAYERS**

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 SAMUEL 1-2



*Through Hannah's prayers and the promise she kept, a prophet came to Israel.*

**The STORY**

Pray with children to start class.

**Teaching Points for Class Discussion:**

**Hannah called upon the Lord in her suffering** – The house of Elkanah stands in stark contrast to the indifference and sin found in the book of Judges. But, each year that Elkanah faithfully traveled to Shiloh to worship, his two wives argued on their way to Shiloh to worship. Peninnah, who had children, teased Hannah, who had none. Hannah offered up a prayer to the Lord. If God would give her a son she would dedicate him to the Lord's service.

**God answered Hannah's prayers** – Eli, the High Priest, saw Hannah praying and thought at first that she was drunk. Upon hearing of her troubles, Eli realized he was wrong and offered his own prayer on Hannah's behalf. The high priest was the man designated to mediate between the Israelites and God. (In other words, he prayed to God for the Israelites.) As soon as Hannah returned home, the Lord answered the prayers she and Eli offered.

**Hannah fulfilled her vow and celebrated God's faithfulness** – As soon as Samuel was weaned (age three at the most). Hannah took him back to the temple and presented him to Eli. One would expect Hannah to be grief stricken at giving up her son, but she was so filled with faith that she was joyful and celebrated the goodness of God with a prayer. She was content to give up her son because she knew God would bless him. She visited Samuel once a year after that (1 Samuel 2:18-21). She brought him a robe. God blessed Hannah for her sacrifice by rewarding her with three more sons and two daughters.

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### 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.*

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. Samuel was called a prophet and is credited, as were the other prophets after him, with foretelling the coming of the Messiah.

Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days.  
(Acts 3:24)

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

**Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.**

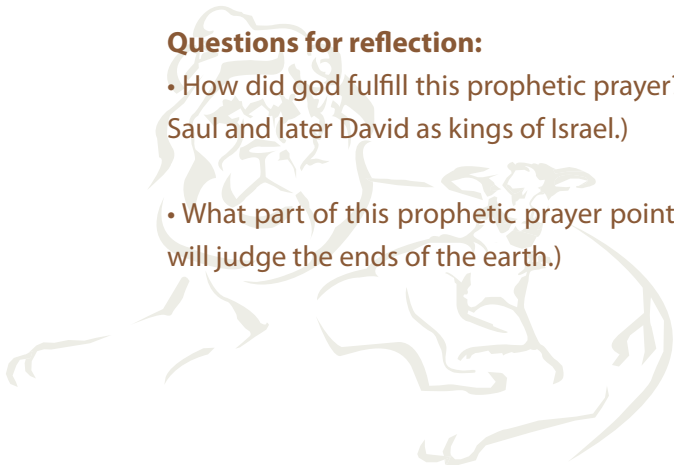
**Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 2:10**

#### **Connecting the passage to Christ:**

Hannah's prayer prophesies of the soon-to-be king Saul and also King David, whom God used mightily. More wonderfully, it points forward to Christ who is the only one who will judge the ends of the earth, (see Revelation 6:10).

#### **Questions for reflection:**

- How did God fulfill this prophetic prayer? (Samuel, Hannah's son, grew up to be a prophet and anoint Saul and later David as kings of Israel.)
- What part of this prophetic prayer points more specifically to Jesus? (Jesus is the anointed king who will judge the ends of the earth.)



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### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

#### ELKANAH'S FAITHFUL HOUSE

THave the children look through the first chapter of Samuel and look for verses which show us Elkanah's faithfulness to the Lord.

1. 1:3 – Elkanah traveled to worship the Lord every year.
2. 1:4-5 – Elkanah provided for his family and gave a double portion to Hannah.
3. 1:21 – Elkanah brought his whole household to worship.
4. 1:23 – Elkanah gave Hannah wise council and honored the Lord with his words.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- How do we know Elkanah was faithful to God? (We see obedience in his life and in his worship of God.)
- How does the life of Elkanah differ from many in Israel? (Many others in Israel were not following God faithfully. In fact, the high priest Eli's sons were "worthless men who did not know the Lord" [see 2:12]. So, while Elkanah was faithfully worshipping the Lord, Hophni and Phinehas were making a mockery of God.)



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### THERE IS A PLAN OF GOD BEHIND ALL OF LIFE

#### Supplies

- soft foam ball
- small candy for prizes
- class roster with room to draw tally marks

The object of this game is to show how God has a sovereign plan that is often totally unknown to us and may be quite different from what we are expecting.

Have the whole class stand in a circle. The object of the game is for the children to throw the ball to each other. If a person drops the ball, the person who threw the ball should say, "Hah! {child's name} dropped it!"

Play this game like hot potato encouraging the children to pass the ball quickly. Each time a person's name is called, mark a tally next to his or her name and announce the number of misses.

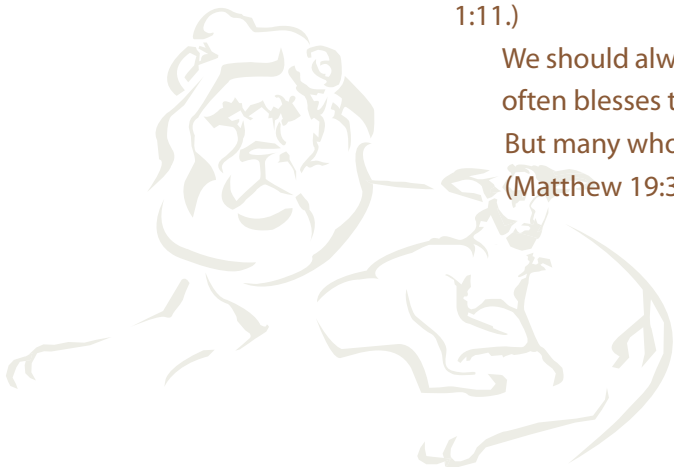
At the end, award candy to the children with the most misses based on your records. The children are likely to make comments like, "If I knew you were going to give out candy for misses, I would have missed more". It is likely that in the course of the game, missing the ball will be looked down upon and those with no missed catches will be proud of their accomplishments.

Here is the amazing truth behind the game – God is aware that the misses are a blessing and you will get to watch and see who God blesses with the treats!

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What was the surprise twist to this game? (We were awarded for missing the ball and not for catching it.)
- What was the surprise twist to Hannah's barrenness? (Hannah received the blessing of mothering one of the greatest prophets in the Bible!)
- Who closed Hannah's womb in the first place? (God did, see verse 5.)
- Who caused the children who missed the ball to miss? (God did, see Ephesians 1:11.)

We should always be aware that in God's plan, things often look backwards. He often blesses those who suffer. It was Jesus who said,  
But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.  
(Matthew 19:30)



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### TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY

#### Supplies

a small notebook you can bring back each time you teach so that you can review answered prayers

Talk to the children about Hannah's prayer and how God wants us to present our requests to Him. Ask the children for prayer requests. Write them down in the book and spend time in class praying for the petitions. Invite the children who brought the prayer requests to lead in prayer for their request and ask the other children join them in agreement.

Save the book for the next time that you teach. Run through the prayers and ask the class if God answered any of them. Take time again to pray. Bring the book back to class from time to time and watch God answer the prayers of your class.

## PRAYER

**Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.**

## IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of young Samuel worshipping God with his mother just before she left him at the temple with Eli.



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## FOR OLDER GRADES

### Supplies

- pens or pencils
- paper

Hand out the worksheet and give the children time to answer the question; How were Eli's sons different from Elkanah Hannah's husband? Compare 1 Samuel 1:1-5 and 1 Samuel 2:12-17.

Review Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

What do we learn about God from Hannah's prayer? Make a list on the white board and see if the class can think of another passage which affirms each of these qualities of God.

2:1 – God is our deliverer.

2:2 – There is no one who can compare with God.

2:3 – God is all-knowing and He judges all our deeds.

2:4 – God can give and take away strength.

2:5 – It is God who provides both food and children.

2:6 – God is the author and sustainer of life.

2:7 – God brings our material wealth and He can humble or exalt a man.

2:8 – God can raise the poor to sit with princes and the earth belongs to the Lord.

2:9 – God guards the saints and judges the wicked.

2:10 – God is able to destroy His enemies and raise up His anointed (Christ).



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### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Anointed** – Anointed means a consecrated person. Literally translated into English, it means messiah. In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and prophets were anointed as a way of setting them apart to God's established tasks and signaling God's commission of them for the office He assigns, see 1 Samuel 10:1, Exodus 28:41, and 1 Kings 19:16. In the New Testament Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, see Luke 4:18.



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**WORKSHEET**

How were Eli's sons different from Elkanah Hannah's husband? Compare 1 Samuel 1:1-5 and 1 Samuel 2:12-17.

Ruled lines for writing.

