

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2019
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Unit 10, Session 1

Introduction: Consider some examples of an “only hope.”

Engage group members by asking them to consider books and movies that point to a specific character as the “only hope.” Choose one clip from the three movies below to illustrate this concept:

- *The Lion King*: Simba and Nala arguing scene (1 minute, 36 seconds):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fXDdg7WWUE>
- *Star Wars*: “Help Me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're My Only Hope” (4 minutes, 19 seconds):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUaxXsqGeFI>
- *The Neverending Story*: Call My Name (2 minutes, 21 seconds):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaILTz-_1z4

Introduce today’s session by explaining that Hannah was a woman who felt she had no hope. Invite group members to consider their own hopeless situations—past and present—and consider who or what they put their hope in.

Point 1: Discuss Hannah’s background and personal character.

Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 1:1-19. Instruct group members to consider the blessings in Hannah’s life and list them on a marker board or sheet of paper. Then use 1 Samuel 1 to identify the struggles in Hannah’s life as well. Consider the social, emotional, and relational toil these would have taken on Hannah.

Say something like the following sentences: “We are drawn to Hannah because she is honest. We see both her hopelessness and her faith in her prayer. If you’ve been in church for long, you know the story of Hannah. But here are some things you may not know.” Then highlight some of the facts from the article “5 Things You Didn’t Know about Hannah in the

Bible”: <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/5-things-you-didn-t-know-about-hannah-in-the-bible.html>

Point 2: *Focus on God’s attributes.*

Read the full record of Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and invite group members to underline in their Bibles (or note in their Daily Discipleship Guides) every description of God in this passage.

Say something like the following: “We are challenged, like Hannah, to focus our eyes on God in every situation.” Read a few of the descriptions of God from the article “15 Amazing Attributes of God: What They Mean and Why They Matter”: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/15-amazing-attributes-of-god-what-they-mean-and-why-they-matter.html>

Invite group members to add some of their own observations about the attributes of God. Write their observations on a board or large piece of paper.

Challenge group members to keep a list of God’s attributes in their personal Bibles and to add to the list of attributes as they see fit. This will allow them to use their list whenever they pray: “Lord, I know You are infinite,” “I know You are all-knowing,” “I know that You cannot change,” etc. As their focus turns to God and His character on a regular basis, they will perceive His hand and know His presence regardless of God’s answers to their prayers.

Conclusion: *Draw application from Samuel’s life.*

Summarize Samuel’s life: He was born after his mother prayed in desperation for a son and dedicated him fully to the Lord. He lived and worked knowing his calling; when the time came to speak clearly the words of God, he did it even as a young boy. He was well on his way to fulfilling his role as a prophet of God.

Ask the following questions for the sake of discussion:

- What are some instances in your life when you've felt called to speak out against sin and to speak up for God?
- Are we called, like Samuel, to speak out and speak up in every situation?

If time allows, glean some instruction and application from the Ronnie Floyd article "Ready to Stand Against Injustice":

<http://www.ronniefloyd.com/blog/7967/bible-studies-for-life/ready-to-stand-against-injustice/>

Teaching Tip of the Week

Hannah is an amazing woman of faith, but emphasize that the point of this session is not that "God will eventually give us what we pray for." Encourage group members to keep their eyes, ears, and hearts pointed to God and to seek His glory instead of our own interests.