



UNIT 9 | SESSION 4

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1–3

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus showed the world what God is like.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God heard Hannah's prayer.
- God used Samuel to tell people what God is like.
- Jesus showed us what God is like.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Hannah wanted a family. Hannah prayed, "God, if You give me a son, I will give him to You." God answered Hannah's prayer with a son named Samuel. When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to Eli, the priest. "This is the son I prayed for. I am giving him to God," she said. Samuel lived with Eli in the tabernacle. Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe. One night, Samuel heard someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli, but it was God! God gave Samuel a message about Eli's family. As Samuel grew, God was with Samuel. People knew Samuel was God's messenger.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“When Hannah prayed to God, He heard her prayer!
When Hannah prayed to God, He heard her prayer!
She prayed to have a child, and God sent her a son.
When Hannah prayed to God, He heard her prayer!”

SAY “ Hannah prayed for a son. God heard Hannah’s prayer, and gave her a son named Samuel. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. Jesus showed the world what God is like. ”

2 PLAY WITH TOY PHONES

Provide age-appropriate toy phones and microphones for babies to “talk” into. Keep wipes handy in case babies put the phones in their mouths. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY “ When Samuel grew up, he heard God’s words and told God’s words to the people. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus showed people what God is like. ”

3 READ BOOKS ABOUT PRAYER

Gather age-appropriate books about praying to God. Read the books to babies. Talk about how prayer is talking to and listening to God. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Hannah prayed for God to give her a son. God heard Hannah’s prayer and gave her a son named Samuel. God hears us when we pray. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 LACE COATS

Cut simple coat shapes out of large index cards (1 per toddler). Punch holes 1 to 1½ inches apart around the edge of the coat. Wrap tape around one end of a precut strand of yarn and tie the other end to the first hole. Show toddlers how to lace the taped end through the holes. Write God heard Hannah's prayer on each child's art. Tell the Bible story as they work.

SAY “ Hannah prayed for a son that she would give back to God. God heard Hannah's prayer. Each year, Hannah made a coat for her son, Samuel, and brought it to him at the tabernacle. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. ”

3 CARE FOR BABIES

Provide baby dolls, toy bottles, and blankets for toddlers to play out caring for babies. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son named Samuel. When Samuel was old enough, she took him to the tabernacle, just like she had promised God. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. Jesus showed the world what God is like. ”

4 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Invite toddlers to sit or lie down as if they are sleeping like Samuel. Call on each child by name, one at a time. Guide her to hurry to you and say, “Here I am!” Open your Bible and read the key passage phrase card. High-five her, tell her to lie down again, and repeat.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that God gives us good things, including life with Him forever. God heard Hannah's prayer. God hears us when we pray too. ”

5 NAME THAT SOUND

Invite toddlers to sit quietly while you play familiar sound effects from an electronic device. Encourage toddlers to identify the sound they hear. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ Samuel was in his bed when he heard the sound of someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli, but it was God! God had a special job for Samuel. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. Jesus showed us what God is like. ”

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1–3

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus showed the world what God is like.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE A PRAYER BOOK

Fold construction paper in half (1 sheet per toddler). Provide smiley face, heart, food, flower, and animal stickers for toddlers to decorate their prayer book. Remind toddlers that we can pray for people (smiley faces), for good health (hearts), for God to provide (food), and for God's creation (animal and flower stickers). Print God hears our prayers on the front cover of their prayer books. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ Hannah wanted children. She knew that God hears His people when they pray. God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son named Samuel. When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to the tabernacle so he could serve God. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. Jesus showed the world what God is like because He is God the Son. ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”:

“God hears us when we pray, God hears us when we pray!

God hears our prayer and answers us.

God hears us when we pray!”

3 MAKE A TENT

Drape a blanket over three sides of a table or two chairs. Invite toddlers to take turns reading books or playing with favorite toys inside the tent. Make sure toddlers can be seen at all times. Talk about how God's people worshiped Him in a special tent called the tabernacle.

SAY “ Hannah brought Samuel to the tabernacle so he could serve God. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. Jesus showed us what God is like. ”

4 WORK A PUZZLE

Print an extra copy of the Bible story picture onto heavyweight paper. Cut one picture into three or four strips. Have an uncut picture on hand as a guide if toddlers need help. Instruct toddlers to help you reassemble the picture. Point to the people in the picture as you talk about the Bible story.

SAY “ God heard Hannah's prayer for a child. In return, Hannah brought her son Samuel to Eli at the tabernacle. God used Samuel to tell people what God is like. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.