

LESSON 51

God Hears Hannah's Prayers

1 SAMUEL 1–2



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 1 Samuel 1:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 51, “God Hears Hannah’s Prayers,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
There Is a Plan of God behind All of Life
SUPPLIES:
✓ soft foam ball
✓ small candy for prizes
✓ class roster with space to add check marks
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Take Some Time to Pray
SUPPLIES:
✓ a small notebook that you can bring to class each time you teach so that you can review answered prayers
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ crayons, colored pencils
✓ coloring page 51—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Lifting Our Prayers to God
SUPPLIES:
✓ colored copy paper cut in quarters (one quarter for each student)
✓ pens and pencils

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Hannah is faithful to the Lord in her suffering—During this time in Israel's history, most of the people have turned away from God. But Elkanah and Hannah are still faithful and believe in God. Even though there are difficulties in their lives, they sacrifice and pray to God.

God answers Hannah's prayers—As high priest of Israel, Eli has a special calling from God to pray on behalf of the Israelites. When Eli sees Hannah praying, he thinks at first that she is drunk. But when he hears she is troubled, Eli prays for her. Soon thereafter, the Lord answers the prayers of Hannah and of Eli.

Hannah fulfills her vow and celebrates God's faithfulness—After Samuel is weaned, probably at the age of three, Hannah takes him back to the temple and presents him to Eli.

Hannah is not sad about giving up her son. She wants to keep her vow to the Lord, and she knows God will bless him. In fact, Hannah is so filled with joyful faith that she celebrates the goodness of God with a prayer.

Hannah visits her son once each year, and God blesses Hannah for her sacrifice by giving her three more sons and two daughters (1 Samuel 2:19–21).

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Samuel 1:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 51, "God Hears Hannah's Prayers," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

There Is a Plan of God behind All of Life

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ soft foam ball
- ✓ small candy for prizes
- ✓ class roster with space to add check 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, “Ha! {child’s name} dropped it!”

Play this game like Hot Potato encouraging the children to pass the ball quickly. Each time a child’s name is called, mark a check 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 whom 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 1 Samuel 1:5.)

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 backward; e.g., God often blesses those who suffer. It was Jesus who said, “But many who are first will be last, and the last first” (Matthew 19:30).

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Take Some Time to Pray

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a small notebook that you can bring to class each time you teach so that you can review answered prayers

Talk to the children about Hannah’s prayer and about 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 child who made the prayer request to lead in prayer for their request, and ask the other children to 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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils
- ✓ coloring page 51—one copy for each child (optional)

Have the children draw a picture of Hannah with baby Samuel on the back of the prayer card from the bonus object lesson or have them color the preschool coloring sheet.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Lifting Our Prayers to God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored copy paper cut in quarters (one quarter for each student)
- ✓ pens and pencils

Have the children follow the directions in the “Activity Time” section of this lesson. Ask the children to think of a prayer request they would like to lift up to God. If necessary, make some suggestions and then help them write down their requests. Have them place the paper in their Bible as a bookmark.

Tell the class you want them to pray this request every week and let you know when God answers their prayer. In subsequent weeks, ask the class if God answered their prayers. Soon you will find you have testimonies of God answering the prayers of the children that you can celebrate and give thanks for.

LESSON 51 - GOD HEARS HANNAH'S PRAYERS

