

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**
The Qualities of God
SUPPLIES:
✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
God Hears Hannah’s Prayers
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Little Samuel and His Mother
SUPPLIES:
✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
Elkanah’s Faithful House

TOTAL 80 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).

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Anointed

Someone who is anointed is consecrated. The kings of Israel were anointed by pouring oil over their head by a prophet to signify them as God's choice to be king (1 Kings 1:39). Literally translated into English, the word is messiah. In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and prophets were anointed as a way of setting them apart for God's established tasks and signaling God's commission of them for the office he assigns (see Exodus 28:41; 1 Samuel 10:1; and 1 Kings 19:16). In the New Testament, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18).

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

The Qualities of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

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

What do we learn about God from Hannah's prayer? List answers on the whiteboard.

1 Samuel verse	What we learn about 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	God provides food; God provides children.
2:6	God is the author and sustainer of life.
2:7	Material wealth is from God; he humbles or exalts whom he will.
2:8	God can raise the poor to sit with princes; 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).

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

God Hears Hannah’s Prayers

Have the class compare and contrast Hannah’s prayer of rejoicing in 1 Samuel 2:2–10 with Mary’s prayer, the Magnificat, in Luke 1:46–55.

Look especially at these verses:

- Compare 1 Samuel 2:1a with Luke 1:46–48.
- Compare 1 Samuel 2:2a with Luke 1:49b.
- Compare 1 Samuel 2:5a with Luke 1:53a.
- Compare 1 Samuel 2:10 with Luke 1:52.

Ask the class what this comparison shows. (This comparison suggests that Mary may have known Hannah's prayer from Scripture and patterned her prayer after Hannah's.)

What other similarities to Hannah and her son Samuel are there with Mary and her son Jesus? (Both sons were dedicated at the temple, both sons became prophets, both sons were used of God to bring about his salvation.)

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 15 MIN

Little Samuel and His Mother

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of young Samuel worshiping God with his mother just before she left him at the temple with Eli.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Elkanah's Faithful House

Have the children read First Samuel chapter one and look for verses that show 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 counsel 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" [1 Samuel 2:12]. So, while Elkanah was faithfully worshiping the Lord, Hophni and Phinehas were making a mockery of God.)