

HANNAH

LESSON 1: GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS

God answered Hannah's prayer, and He answers our prayers too!

TOPICS

Prayer, Hannah

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Hannah Prayed (Maze)

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted me what I asked of Him." 1 Samuel 1:27 NIV

Use the following motions to teach the children the verse:

"I prayed" – Praying hands

"for this child" – Rocking arms as if holding a baby

"and the Lord" – Pointing up with both hands

"granted what I asked of Him." – Holding hands out with the palms facing up

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Today we will learn about Hannah, a woman in the Bible who prayed and asked God for something very special. Prayer is talking to God. What are some things you pray for (friends, family, people who are sick)? Does God answer our prayers (yes)? Let's read from a book called 1 Samuel to see how God showed His love for Hannah.

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 20-22, 24-28 (God answers Hannah's prayer.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Hannah sad? (*Because she doesn't have any children.*)
2. What is Hannah's prayer request? (*For a son.*)
3. Who is the priest/church leader? (*Eli.*)
4. What does Hannah promise God? (*That she will give her son to God to serve Him.*)
5. Does God answer Hannah's prayer? (*Yes!*)
6. What is her son's name? (*Samuel.*)
7. Where does Hannah take Samuel when he is a young boy? (*To the temple.*)
8. Why does Hannah leave Samuel with Eli? (*Because she promised God that Samuel would serve Him.*)

Conclusion: God answers our prayers because He loves us! God answered Hannah's prayer for a son. How has God answered one of your prayers (e.g. healing a sick family member)? We can remember Hannah's story when we pray for God's help. God is listening, and He cares! We

know this because He sent Jesus to die for our sins – the best answer to prayer we could ever receive.

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Prayer Freeze Tag (Game)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Prayer Bubbles (Activity)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

Lead the children in prayer and then pass out a healthy snack. While eating, talk to the children about a time when God answered a prayer. Ask the children to also talk about times when God answered their prayers (such as healing a sick friend). Help the children understand that we should pray whenever we have a need or problem, but we can also pray to tell God we love Him and show thankfulness. And God will always hear our prayers!

CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Ask each child to think about a prayer request they would like God to answer. Then write the name/request on a heart or cross cutout for each child to take home. Encourage the children to show their parents the cutouts and pray for the request every day as they wait for God's answer.

STORY TELLING TIPS

Story telling is an old age art that most any one can do. To become a really good storyteller takes practice. These tips will help you become a better storyteller.

When my child was a preschooler, she loved going to the library with me for story time. She sat quietly and listened to the storyteller as if she were one of the characters in the book the storyteller read. The children giggled, covered their eyes, and yelled in unison. They were excited about the story. Until my daughter attended story time, I did not realize how storytelling could be such a powerful medium to communicate with children. A great story can give a child a realistic picture right from his or her own imagination that lasts forever.

Storytelling can be done effectively through a range of visual and vocal emotions. You don't need to be highly experienced. You only need to read, use your imagination, and make funny, loud, or silly noises. Add some arm movements and face contortions and anyone can be a storytelling star.

The key is to really get into the story yourself as if you were hearing it for the first time as a small child. If you are really adventurous, not minding the adults that may be accompanying their children, you can even dance around the room in an animated fashion.

Children love to interact with the story, so whenever possible, ask the children to take part in the storytelling. For example, children can make rain noises, or they can guess which animals oink and quack.



Change your voice's reflection - loud at times and soft at others, use different voices for different characters.

Storytelling is a great way to teach the children about Jesus without spending a lot of money on supplies or materials. Kid's Sunday School Place has many stories available for usage—all you need is yourself and your commitment to be silly in the name of the Lord.

Other items you can use for a great story time:

Faces of main characters or pictures of objects in the story can be drawn on paper and attached to wooden rulers. Display these props at the appropriate time while telling the story. For example, when you tell the story of Noah, use a paper face for Noah, Mrs. Noah, and an animal or two. These visuals will help keep the children's attention.

Bring a twin size blanket or comforter to place on the floor for the children to sit on. This will make them comfortable and feel like they are in a special setting.

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS**

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN**

With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.

- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS**

Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

- **SCRAMBLED**

Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.