



HANNAH AND SAMUEL

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

FOCUS VERSES: 1 Peter 5:7; Luke 12:6–7; 1 Samuel 12:24; Colossians 3:17

Summary: More than anything else, Hannah wanted a baby. She prayed fervently to the Lord, promising that if He gave her a child, she would dedicate the child to God’s service forever. Hannah gave birth to Samuel. She kept her word and left him with Eli, the high priest, to serve in the temple. God called out to Samuel, but Samuel didn’t know it was Him. After several times, Eli told Samuel to respond to God. God raised up Samuel to be a prophet for all of Israel.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God cares about us.

We will go deeper in God’s truth by answering these questions:

HE

DOES GOD KNOW WHAT’S HAPPENING IN PEOPLE’S LIVES?

God knows everything, including the details of every single person’s life. He knows us and cares about us.

WE

HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GOODNESS TO US?

We can respond to God with thankfulness and a willingness to serve Him.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: REMEMBER IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

When a kid responds in a way that does not meet our expectations, it's common to take that behavior personally. This can cause leaders to become frustrated and respond in ways that are not helpful and may even escalate the kid's behavior. Here are some ways to stay calm in the midst of tough situations.

- **Check your breathing:** Before responding, take a few deep breaths. This is also a great modeling for the kid who may be having a hard time. As they see us breathing deeply, often they will do the same.
- **Pray.** Matthew 19:26 says: *With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.* Need more patience, discernment or calm? Ask God for it.
- **Reframe the behavior:** Instead of being offended at the kid's behavior, consider what this behavior may be telling you and how you might help. If we approach the kid as someone needing help, we will tend to approach them in a more compassionate and empathetic way.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FOSTER CARE

In today's story, kids might be confused why Hannah entrusted the very child she had prayed for to someone else's care. In this situation, Hannah was keeping a promise to God. She loved Samuel so much that she wanted the best for him, which in this case meant living and serving God in the temple. There are over 340,000 kids in foster care in the United States.* In these situations, kids end up living with someone other than their parents due to sickness, trouble or neglect. You may have kids in your group who have been in the foster care system. Avoid asking specifics about why kids are in foster care or about the situation of their biological parents. It might be difficult for them to discuss, but there is also a good chance they don't know the whole situation. Recognize that many kids in foster care have experienced significant trauma, resulting in emotional or behavioral challenges that they may exhibit in your group. Offer support and acceptance to all kids while partnering with foster parents to understand how best to meet kids' needs.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Omniscient: all-knowing

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people

Temple: the holy place where God's people went to worship Him

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME**

(8 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, sheet**2****FIND IT IN THE BIBLE**

(2 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides**3****BIBLE TEACHING**

(10 MINUTES)

HANNAH AND SAMUEL**(1 SAMUEL 1-3)****SUPPLIES:** Bible, teaching slides, printable pages**4****REVIEW**

(8 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides**5****LARGE GROUP WRAP-UP**

(5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Call two volunteers to hold a sheet at the front of your space. Choose three players to come forward and loudly say their names.

Say: Our three players will step behind the sheet. One of them will say today's Brite Idea—"God cares about us"—in a silly voice. Then we'll try to guess who said it.

Have the players go behind the sheet and choose the mystery speaker.

Say: Mystery speaker, repeat after me: "God cares about us."

After the line is spoken, bring everyone forward. Let the kids guess the speaker, reveal the mystery speaker, and rotate players. Play as time allows.

Say: In today's story, someone hears God's voice and mistakes it for someone else. But when he realizes it's really God, he discovers a message filled with God's care for His people.

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, sheet

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

For large rooms, have a microphone ready for the players.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: It was really thoughtful for Wes to contact his friend so that he wouldn't worry. That's the sign of a good friend.

Discuss: What qualities do you think make someone a really good friend?

Say: It is really good to have friends who care about us, but no one cares like God. Today's Brite Idea is: God cares about us.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Does God know what's happening in people's lives?



How can we respond to God's goodness to us?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: Joshua Prays & Sun Stands Still

Say: Two weeks ago we learned about the time the sun stood still and how God does what He says.

Show teaching image: Barak Asks Deborah to Come With Him

Say: Last week we learned about the judge Deborah and how God is victorious.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of 1 Samuel. 1 Samuel is found in the Old Testament between the books of Ruth and 2 Samuel.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Promised Land" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened right before kings ruled the nation of Israel!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on the powerful truth that God never fails.

Say: This week we are learning that God cares for us through the story of a faithful woman named Hannah and her son Samuel.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of 1 Samuel. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (1 Samuel 1–3).

Bible TEACHING

HANNAH AND SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 1-3



PRAY: God, Your care for us is amazing. You heard Hannah, and You hear us too. Help us understand Your care as we listen to Your Word today. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages

PREP:

Print the printable pages or use the teaching slides.

LEADER TIP:

Let the entire group attempt to sound out the words instead of calling on volunteers.

Say: Have you ever had trouble understanding something you hear? Today a boy named Samuel will have real trouble understanding God's voice in the night. You might also have some trouble understanding some words at points in the story. I will show you some strange-looking words. You'll need to work together with others in our group to sound out what the words are really supposed to be! Let's try it.

Say: During the time of the Judges, there was a woman named Hannah who did not have any children. Each year, Hannah and her husband would travel to this place:

Show image #1: "Thuht Emmpull."

Have kids try to sound out the nonsense words to discover the answer: the temple.

Say: Hannah wept and prayed to the Lord. "If You will give Your servant a son," she said, "I will give him back to serve You his entire life."

Show teaching illustration: Hannah Prays for a Baby.

Say: This person saw her praying silently with her lips moving:

Show image #2: "Eeyl I Duh Preest."

Have kids try to sound out the nonsense words to discover the answer: Eli the Priest.

Say: Eli thought there was something wrong with her. Hannah explained that she was pouring out her soul to the Lord. Eli said, "Go in peace, and may God answer your prayer."

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: God did answer Hannah's prayer. He saw her tears and knew her heart. He cared for her. He gave Hannah this:

Show image #3: "Aybay Beeb Oiy."

Have kids try to sound out the nonsense words to discover the answer: a baby boy.

Say: She named the baby Samuel, which means "heard of God" because she had asked for him from the Lord. Hannah prayed, praising God.

Read 1 Samuel 2:2 directly from the Bible: *There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.*

Say: When Samuel was a boy, Hannah took him to the temple to live, just as she promised. Samuel served the Lord in the temple, alongside Eli the priest.

Say: Eli had these who were doing very evil thing:

Show image #4: "Tuice Unns."

Have kids try to sound out the nonsense words to discover the answer: two sons.

Say: Eli's sons didn't know the Lord. They didn't follow God's commands for the sacrifices, and they took things for themselves. One night, as Samuel slept, the Lord called his name, but Samuel didn't understand what he was hearing.

Show teaching illustration: God Calls to Samuel.

Say: Samuel ran to Eli and said, "You called me." He also said this:

Show image #5: "Heerai Yam."

Have kids try to sound out the nonsense words to discover the answer: here I am.

Say: "I didn't call you," Eli told him. "Go back to bed." This happened two more times before Eli realized what was happening. "Go back to bed," he told Samuel. "When you hear your name called again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" God spoke to Samuel again!

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Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Read 1 Samuel 3:11: *Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle."*

Say: God told Samuel about the evil things Eli's sons were doing. They didn't know the Lord. They didn't follow God's commands for the sacrifices and they took things for themselves.

Say: The Lord cared for Hannah and answered her prayer for a child. The Lord also cared for Israel by removing Eli's evil sons and raising Samuel to become a great prophet in Israel. This sentence was true for them and it is true for us:

Show image #6: "God Kayr Sfour Uhz."

Have kids try to sound out the nonsense words to discover the answer: God cares for us.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Jesus' whole ministry on Earth showed that God cares for His people. Jesus healed many people, helping those who were sick or couldn't walk or couldn't see. He wept when His friends were sad because their brother Lazarus died. He reached out to people who were ignored in His society. Jesus showed that God cares about our hurt and provides for us. Most of all, Jesus showed how much God cares for us by sacrificing Himself for our sins.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

Designate each corner of the space as a, b, c or d.

INSTRUCTIONS: Kids will stand and point to a corner to indicate their answer.

1. **What did God give Hannah in answer to her prayer?**
 - a. A baby girl
 - b. A place to live
 - c. A baby boy**
 - d. A new friend
2. **Why did Hannah send Samuel to live in the temple?**
 - a. To serve God**
 - b. To eat better food
 - c. To have Eli's sons as brothers
 - d. To earn money for the family
3. **Whose voice kept waking Samuel from sleep?**
 - a. Eli's evil sons
 - b. Eli
 - c. God**
 - d. Hannah

4. **How did God show He cared for all of Israel?**

- a. By helping Eli
- b. By raising Samuel to be a leader**
- c. By putting Samuel to sleep
- d. By accepting Eli's sons' sacrifice

5. **Does God know what's happening in people's lives?**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Mostly
- d. Always**

God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us, and He cares about us.

6. **How can we respond to God's goodness to us?**

- a. Pat ourselves on the back
- b. Be thankful and willing to serve**
- c. Take all the credit
- d. Ignore it and live our lives

We can respond to God with thankfulness and a willingness to serve Him.



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



Does God know what's happening in people's lives?

God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us and He cares about us.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



How can we respond to God's goodness to us?

We can respond to God with thankfulness and a willingness to serve Him.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, help us remember Your care this week. When we feel unseen or unheard, remind us that You love us, see our tears, and hear every prayer. Help us respond with a grateful heart ready to serve You. Amen.