

LESSON 3

GOD ANSWERS HANNAH'S PRAYER

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Answers Prayers

SCRIPTURE: [1 Samuel 1](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: After years of praying, Hannah is still childless. Though sad, she continues to pray in the tabernacle where she encounters Eli the priest. God answers her prayers, and Hannah gives birth to Samuel, whom she returns to the Lord.

Activity: Take Care of Baby

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Pray and Answer Motions

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

Hannah was wrecked; distraught to the point of being confused with someone in a drunken state. She was weeping in the house of God, alone and in despair.

The only person who saw her in her most desperate state was the priest Eli. Hannah had come to the house of the Lord to pray. She had come to God, and God sent a minister. Take a moment and read [1 Samuel 1:9–28](#).

As ministers, there are times we are privy to the experiences of others no one else gets to see. And often, in their encounter with God, He sends us as ministers of His presence and grace. That also means we often get to see just how beautifully God answers prayers, just like He did for Hannah.

Consider a time you have seen God work in this way. Has God gifted you with the opportunity to share His grace with others? It's a blessed and sacred thing to be the voice of comfort and mercy and the reminder of God's presence in those moments. God answers prayers, and sometimes we get to be part of that answer.

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

Elkanah and Hannah—an Israelite family; Hannah is barren. Eli is the priest at the tabernacle where they worship. Samuel is Hannah's miracle son.

WHAT?

Hannah's barrenness was considered a curse of shame in Israelite culture. Her despair brings her to the temple where she weeps before God, begging Him for a child. Eli confirms that God has heard her prayer and will give her a child.

WHERE?

Elkanah's family lived in Ramah (1 Samuel 1:19) and worshiped in Shiloh (1:3). Today, Ramah is located about five miles north of Jerusalem at an archeological site called Al-Ram. Shiloh still exists 19 miles north of Jerusalem.

WHEN?

Hannah's story takes place during the time of the judges before Israel had kings. Her son Samuel would later anoint both Saul and David as the first two kings of Israel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Hannah kept praying year after year until God answered her prayer. Her perseverance was the type Jesus would tell His disciples to have in prayer too: "always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1).

Activity: Take Care of Baby

SUPPLIES: baby doll, baby doll toy supplies (such as blanket, toy pacifier, baby toys, toy bottle, etc.)

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're at church today! Today in our story, we're talking about a woman who prayed for a baby and how God answered her prayers! Let's play with this baby as we get curious about our story today and learn how God hears and answers our prayers! Can you pretend to feed and play with the baby doll?

Give the kids a baby doll and toys to play with. Give them various tasks to do for the baby, such as pretending to feed, rock, or play with the baby. You can encourage them to sing songs to the baby and ask them to name the baby.

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for snack and story.

Snack

SUPPLIES: Small paper cups, cheerios, and pitcher of water

Gather kids at chairs around snack tables and serve cheerios and water. While kids are busy eating, begin the Bible story.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, [God's Big Story Pictures](#)

Ahead of time, print one set of the God's Big Story Pictures and cut the cards apart.

In God's big story today, we're learning a great story from the Bible about a person named Hannah. Encourage the kids to say, "Hannah." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Hannah!**

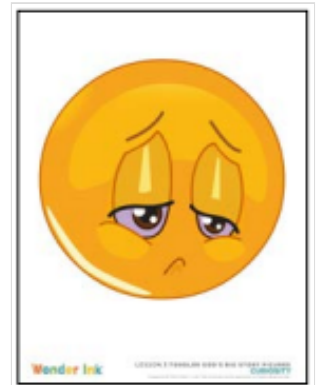
There was a woman in the Bible named Hannah who couldn't have a child. This made her very sad. Hold up the card of the sad face.

Hannah prayed and asked God to give her a baby. Hold up the praying hands card.

As she was praying, a man named Eli saw how sad Hannah was. He told Hannah that he hoped God would answer her prayer. When Hannah left, she didn't feel sad anymore. Show the happy face card.

Do you know what happened next? God answered Hannah's prayer. She had a baby son. Show the baby card. **She named him Samuel.**

Just like God heard Hannah, He hears you too. He is always faithful to hear us and answer us in the best possible way. God answers prayers. Hold up the praying hands card.



Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Dear God, thank You for answering our prayers. We know You're in charge of everything and that You love us. Remind us that we can always pray to You and You always answer us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: **May you trust that God hears your prayers. May God show Himself to you in your life. May God's presence give you hope and peace.**

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today, we'll learn in God's big story how God answers our prayers! Let's sing and thank God!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

Activity: Pray and Answer Motions

What did Hannah pray for? Allow the kids time to answer. **Yes, she prayed for a baby! We're going to remember what God did for Hannah as we play this game.**

If I say, "Pray," you put your hands together. Demonstrate the praying hands motions and encourage the kids to do it. **If I say, "answer," you put your hands to your ears like you're waiting for an answer.** Do the motion and encourage the kids to mimic the motion. **If I say, "happy," you can clap your hands and cheer like Hannah might have done when God answered her prayer!**

Say the words, *pray*, *answer*, and *happy* several times and encourage the kids to do the motions with you that correspond with each word.