

## **F2. Hannah and Samuel**

*1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:1*

### **Memory Verse**

*"The Lord has given me what I asked Him for."*

*--1 Samuel 1:27*

### **Bible Lesson**

**Message:**      *God wants us to keep our promises.*

#### **Samuel Is Born**

There once was a man named Elkanah, who came from the city of Ramathaim in the hill country of Ephraim. Elkanah's wife was named Hannah. Hannah did not have any children.

Year after year Elkanah went up from his town to Shiloh. He went there to worship and offer sacrifices to the Lord. Every time the day came for Elkanah to offer a sacrifice, he would give a special share of meat to Hannah. He did this because he loved Hannah and because the Lord had kept her from having children.

Hannah often was upset and she would cry and not eat anything. Elkanah would speak to Hannah. He would say, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why don't you eat? Why are you so angry and unhappy? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

One time when they had finished eating their meal in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. The priest Eli was sitting on a chair near the entrance of the Lord's Holy Tent. Hannah was very sad. She cried and cried and she prayed to the Lord. She then made a promise. She said, "Lord, you rule over all. Please see how bad I feel! Remember me! Don't forget about me! Please give me a son! If you do, I'll give him back to you. Then he will serve you all the days of his life."

As Hannah kept on praying to the Lord, Eli watched her lips. She was praying in her heart. Her lips were moving. But she wasn't making a sound. When Eli questioned Hannah she told him that she was just telling the Lord about my troubles. I've been praying here because I'm very sad. My pain is so great."

Eli answered, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you have asked him for." She said, "May you be pleased with me." Then she left and had something to eat. Her face wasn't sad anymore.

Early the next morning Elkanah and his family got up and worshiped the Lord. Then they went back to their home again. After some time, Hannah became pregnant. She had a baby boy and she named him Samuel.

#### **Hannah Gives Samuel to the Lord**

Elkanah went up to Shiloh again to offer the yearly sacrifice to the Lord. He also went there to keep a promise he had made to God. But Hannah didn't go. She said to her husband, "When Samuel is old enough to eat solid food, I'll take him to the Lord's house. Then I will give him to the Lord there. He'll stay there for the rest of his life."

Her husband Elkanah told her, "Do what you think is best. Stay here at home until Samuel is old enough to eat. May the Lord make his promise to you come true."

So Hannah stayed home until Samuel was old enough to eat solid food. Then Hannah took him to the Tent of the Lord in Shiloh. Hannah said to Eli, "Sir, I am the same woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord has given me what I asked him for. So now I'm giving him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all of His life." And all of them worshiped the Lord there.

Hannah said: "The Lord has filled my heart with joy."

## **Talk About It**

*In today's lesson, Hannah wanted a baby so much that she prayed and prayed to God for His help. As a result of her prayers, Hannah was blessed with a son, Samuel and she promised to give Him back to the Lord. Let your child know that young children's voices (like theirs) may seem tiny and childish, but to God the words spoken by children, especially in prayer, are very important. God hears and answers the prayers of children, just as He does for grown-ups. Share with your child a time when God answered one of your prayers. How did that make you feel in your heart? Talk about it.*

