



## **Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions**

**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 overall. 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."

## **Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued**

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the name of Elkanah's wife? (*Hannah.*)
2. Did Hannah want to have children? (*Yes, she really wanted to have children.*)
3. What was Hannah doing outside of the place where they worshipped the Lord? (*She was praying to God.*)
4. Hannah made a promise to God, what did she promise? (*Hannah promised that she would give her son back to God, if God would allow her to have a baby boy.*)
5. What was the name of the priest who saw Hannah praying, and who blessed her? (*Eli.*)
6. What did Hannah name her baby boy? (*Samuel.*)
7. How do you think Hannah felt when God answered her prayers? (*Answers will vary. Discuss together...refer to the Memory Verse and the fruit of the spirit, JOY!*)
8. Did Hannah keep her promise to God? (*Yes. She brought Samuel to live in the Lord's house with Eli when he was old enough.*)
9. Have you ever prayed to God for something special? (*Discuss together. Be ready to share a personal story.*)

## **Application to Real Life**

For today's snack, bring Rice Krispy treats. As the children eat their snacks, ask them what other foods or snacks make noise when you eat them. (Apples, potato chips, raw carrots, etc.) What foods make hardly any noise? (Jell-O, pudding, cheese, etc.) (Remember to make a list together on the easel.) To some adults, young children's voices may seem tiny and childish, like the silly sounds made by some foods, but to God the words spoken by children, especially in prayer are very important. God hears and answers those prayers the same as He does for older people.

**OR**

### **Make a "Promise Chart"**

As a class project have the children make a "promise chart" to hang on the bulletin board. Use a large piece of paper (butcher paper is good). Allow the children to decorate the chart and make enough lines for each child in your class. Have the children talk about a promise they made to the Lord. Write down the promise on the chart to help the children to remember to keep their promises. Over the next few weeks review the chart to encourage the children to keep their promises.

## **Memory Work Fun**

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review a Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Is "wisdom" a Fruit of the Spirit? See if your class can name all nine.

**All Ages****Birth Announcement**

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Teacher Guide → Page 8 → “Samuel is Born” → Pages 6 & 9

Copy and cut apart one birth announcement for each child to color. After coloring the announcement take a sheet of gold or black construction paper and cut a square slightly larger than the birth announcement. Glue the announcement to the construction paper to give the appearance of a frame. As the children are making their announcements explain to them that the Lord answered Hannah’s prayer and then Hannah was faithful and kept her promise to the Lord. The Lord honored that promise and made Samuel to become a great man of God.

**Grades K-2****God can Hear Me**

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Preschool → Object Talks → “God Can Hear Me”

You will need two cans or paper cups, a small nail and hammer, and a long piece of string for this activity.

**Telephone Game**

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Preschool → Lessons, Prayer - God Hears My Prayers - *Closing Activity* for details and directions.

**Grades 3-5****Role Play: God Answers Hannah’s Prayer**

Before Class: Gather the props (chair, baby doll) for the play. Place the chair at one side of the stage. Print a copy of the play for each character. Please see the Role Play Script at the end of the lesson.

**Group Work: Promises in the Bible**

Before Class: Print one worksheet for each group. (See worksheet at the end of this lesson.) Print one answer worksheet. Gather one Bible for each group.

Divide the children into small groups. Give each child a worksheet. Tell the groups to find the Bible verse, read it and identify who made the promise to whom. After all the groups have completed their worksheet, briefly discuss the answers to the worksheet.

**Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of yourself praying in your favorite place to talk to God. Why is it your favorite? Write about it.

**Grades 3-5**

When was the last time you had a long talk with God when you prayed to Him? Why do you think it is important to talk with God regularly? Write about it.

Have you ever made a promise to God about something? Have you been able to keep your promise to Him? Why do you think it is important to keep your promises to God? Write about it.

**Homework Ideas**

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson about **"Samuel the Prophet"** (1 Samuel 3).
- Learn the memory verse: *"Speak, for your servant hears."* --1 Samuel 3:10
- Work on memorizing commandment #\_\_\_\_\_.
- Complete the **Samuel the Prophet** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Ask you parents what their favorite way to serve God is.

**Other Resources**

[www.daniellesplace.com](http://www.daniellesplace.com) → Search "Hannah"

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → "Samuel is Born"





## Role Play: God Answers Hannah's Prayer

**Narrator:** In Israel, there is a city called Ramathaim Zophim. A man named Elkanah and his wife Hannah lived there. They had no children. Unfortunately, this made Hannah very sad. She cried and would not eat. Every year, Elkanah went with his family to Shiloh to bring a sacrifice to God. Even though they did not have children, Elkanah loved Hannah very much. *(Elkanah and Hannah enter. Hannah is crying.)*

**Elkanah:** Why are you crying and why will you not eat? Am I not worth more than ten sons to you? *(Elkanah exits.)*

**Narrator:** When they were in Shiloh, Hannah went to the temple. She was upset and prayed to God. *(Hannah gets on her knees and prays to God. She continues to cry. Eli enters and sits on the chair.)*

**Hannah:** Lord, if you can see my grief, please do not forget me. Please give me a son. I will give him back to You as Your servant.

**Narrator:** Eli the high priest was sitting on a chair at the gates of the temple watching Hannah. Hannah was praying silently. Only her lips were moving. *(Eli walks over to Hannah.)*

**Eli:** What is wrong?

**Hannah:** I am sad and have poured my heart out to God.

**Eli:** Go in peace. God will answer your prayer.

**Hannah:** Thank you. *(Hannah and Eli exit.)*





## Role Play: God Answers Hannah's Prayer

**Narrator:** Hannah returned to the others. She had something to eat and no longer seemed so sad. The next morning they set off and returned to Ramathaim. God did not forget Hannah. In time, she gave birth to a son, whom she called Samuel. *(Hannah and Elkanah enter. Hannah is holding Samuel.)*

**Elkanah:** Are you coming with me to Shiloh to make our annual sacrifice?

**Hannah:** When the boy is weaned I will take him to Shiloh and bring him into the Lord's house. He will stay there as I promised God. *(Hannah and Elkanah exit.)*

**Narrator:** When the time came, Hannah went to Shiloh. She made an offering of three bulls, flour, and wine. The parents took Samuel to Eli. *(Eli enters and sits on the chair. Hannah, Elkanah and Samuel enter and walk towards Eli.)*

**Hannah:** I am the woman who stood before you and prayed to the Lord. I prayed for this son and God answered my prayer. Now I am returning my son to God. *(Samuel gives both of his parents a hug and stands beside Eli. Hannah and Elkanah exit.)*

**Narrator:** Samuel grew up with Eli the high priest. Hannah and Elkanah visited him every year when they came to Shiloh to make their sacrifice. Hannah gave him a coat each year. Samuel became a famous prophet.





## Group Work: Promises in the Bible

Find the Bible verse in the Bible, read it and identify who made the promise to whom.

Promise	Who was it made by and to whom?
<p>But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife and your sons' wives with you.</p> <p>Genesis 6:18</p>	<div data-bbox="906 405 1230 464" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">made a promise to</p> <div data-bbox="906 569 1230 627" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px;"></div>
<p>If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on so that I come back to my father's house in peace then the Lord shall be my God.</p> <p>Genesis 28:20-21</p>	<div data-bbox="906 697 1230 756" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">made a promise to</p> <div data-bbox="906 861 1230 919" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px;"></div>
<p>And this is the promise that He had promised us—eternal life.</p> <p>1 John 2:25</p>	<div data-bbox="906 989 1230 1047" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">made a promise to</p> <div data-bbox="906 1173 1230 1232" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px;"></div>



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Samuel the Prophet



"Speak, for your servant hears." --1 Samuel 3:10



## Take Home Page: F2. Hannah and Samuel

### Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God wants us to keep our promises**. The children reviewed the story of Hannah and Samuel and talked about what it means to keep a promise, especially to the Lord.

### Help me learn my memory verse...

*"The Lord has given me what I asked Him for." --1 Samuel 1:27*

### Ask me...

1. What promise did Hannah make to the Lord?
2. Did Hannah keep her promise? Why?
3. Have you ever made a promise to God? Do you think it is important to keep our promises to Him? Why or why not?

### Live Your Faith...

Go on a nature walk together and make a point to notice and name all the things that God created. Remind your child just how amazing and wonderful God is that He made so many beautiful things for us to enjoy. He also made each one of us. Remind your child of how much God loves us and how important it is for us to keep our promises to Him. Say a prayer together and thank God especially for promising to always be with you each day.

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