

November 28, 2012

Hannah & Samuel

1 Samuel 1

LESSON FOCUS

Love one another. John 13:34

Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2 (NIV)

Today's Bible Lesson:

Samuel's story begins in the hill country of Ephraim (EE-fray-m) at a place called Ramathaim (RAY-mah-THAY-m), near Shiloh. For about 300 years the Old Testament tabernacle was set up at Shiloh, so it became the worship center for Israel prior to Jerusalem (1 Sam. 1:3, 24; 4:3).

When one compares Zephaniah 1:1 with 1 Samuel 1:1, one can see that each verse traces the man being talked about back for four generations ("the son of" so-and-so is found four times). For Jewish people, family roots were very important.

Samuel's father, Elkanah, had two wives, which was common in early Bible times. In those days polygamy was tolerated under the law of Moses (Deut. 21:15-17). However, it was not God's original intention, for as Jesus taught, it could cause great misery (Matt. 19:3-8).

The names of Elkanah's wives were Hannah and Peninnah. In the Bible, names often mean something special. The name "Hannah" means "grace." In 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah praises God for how He has "graced" her with His favor.

Hannah had been childless—a tragedy for women of that day. Because children are a blessing from God, the absence of children was sometimes considered a punishment for sin. Peninnah may have suggested this and used it to hurt Hannah.

Bible-time Jewish men were required by law (Deut. 16:16) to attend three sacred festivals annually ("year after year;" 1 Sam. 1:7). The three required annual feasts were Passover (or Unleavened Bread), Pentecost (or Weeks), and Tabernacles (or Booths).

While attending a feast in Shiloh, the religious center of the nation at that time, Hannah left the feasting to pray at the tabernacle. She told God of her anguish over her childlessness. Hannah vowed that she would dedicate her child to the Lord's service (1 Sam. 1:11). Then she prayed, "May your servant find favor in your eyes" (vs. 18).

The priest, Eli, observed Hannah moving her lips without sound and reprimanded her for being drunk at the tabernacle. Hannah explained that she was not drunk but was praying because of her sorrow. When Hannah told him of her longing, she received his blessing.

Hannah conceived and a son was born. Hannah named her son Samuel, which means “asked of God” (vs. 20). Samuel was a special gift from God—not only for his parents, but also for all of Israel. Samuel served as a prophet and anointed Saul as king, then David.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

God answered Hannah’s prayer and gave her a baby.



Hannah and Baby Samuel Paper Doll

What you will need: Card stock, crayons or markers, scissors.

What to do:

1. Before class print out the pattern onto card stock and cut them out. Use scissors to cut the two slits above and below Hannah's hands.
2. In class have the children color the paper dolls and place Baby Samuel in Hannah's arms.

Use Hannah with empty hands to tell the first part of the Bible story, and add Samuel to Hannah’s arms towards the end of the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY

Hannah & Samuel

1 Samuel 1

Open your Bible so children can see you “reading” God’s Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you’re saying is coming from God’s Word. Use Tell the Story idea below.

The Bible tells us that there once lived a woman named Hannah. She was married to a man named Elkanah [el-KAY-nuh].

Hannah and Elkanah loved each other very much. But most of all they loved God.

God had made Hannah and Elkanah’s family very special. But Hannah wanted their family to grow. She was sad that they didn’t have any children.

One day Hannah and Elkanah went to church to worship God. While Hannah was there, she asked God for something special. (*Fold hands as if praying.*) Hannah prayed for a baby boy. She cried while she was praying because she was so sad. She promised God that if He gave her a baby boy, she would have the boy serve God.

Eli, the priest, saw Hannah praying and crying. He saw that while she was praying, not a sound came out of her mouth. He talked to Hannah about what was wrong.

Hannah said, "I've been praying here because I am very sad."

Eli told her, "Go in peace. May God give you what you have prayed for."

Early the next day Hannah and Elkanah worshiped God and then walked home. She didn't feel quite so sad anymore.

Soon God answered Hannah's prayers. Hannah and Elkanah had a baby boy. They named him Samuel.

God had given them baby Samuel for their family. Hannah and Elkanah liked to take care of little Samuel.

They gave him food to eat. They gave him milk to drink. They dressed him every day and kept him safe. And they loved Samuel.

Hannah and Elkanah were happy that God had given them little Samuel. They thanked God for Samuel and took very good care of him. They were glad that God had given them a family. God gives us families too.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

Love one another. John 13:34

Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2 (NIV)

Read this passage from your Bible. Help children learn this verse.

Love One Another Finger Play

God made me,	(Point to self.)
God made you.	(Point to someone else.)
God made my family, too!	(Hug self.)
God loves me,	(Point to self.)
God loves you.	(Point to someone.)
He said, "Love one another, too!"	(Hug self.)

GAME

Hannah Cared

Hannah would feed the baby, (Raise hand to mouth.)
Wash the baby, (Rub hands on face and tummy.)
Sing him a song. (Clap hands on "sing," "him," and "song.")
Then she'd rock the baby,
Rock the baby, all day long. (Move arms in rocking motion.)

SONG

Down on Her Knees Song

Tune: Down by the Station

Down on her knees	(Get on your knees)
Hannah prays to our God.	(Fold hands in prayer)
Asking for a baby	(Hold arms as if holding a baby)
To hold and love.	(Fold arms across chest)
Watch her heart rejoice	(Raise hands in praise)
When God answers prayer.	(Fold hands in prayer)
Clap, clap, snap, snap	(Clap, Clap, snap, snap)
God is Good.	(Point to God.)

Hannah's Heart

Tune: Mary had a little lamb

Hannah was very sad, very sad, very sad
Hannah was very sad, she did not have a baby.
Hannah prayed to God above, God above, God above
Hannah prayed to God above to give her a baby.
God answered Hannah's prayer, Hannah's prayer, Hannah's prayer

ACTIVE PLAY

Motherly Love

Supplies:

Dolls & Blankets

Show children how to wrap a baby doll in a blanket to keep it warm. If you have a bottle, show them how to feed the baby and care for it. Perhaps even rock the baby to sleep.

Baby's Blanket

You'll Need:

Another copy of baby Samuel (same baby as used earlier with Hannah)

Small sheet of colored construction paper

Soft fabric for a blanket

Yarn

Tape

Cut the soft fabric into small squares to use as a blanket

Cut out baby Samuel.

Tape one end of a piece of yard to the back of baby Samuel, the other end to the back of the small piece of construction paper. (Samuel won't get lost as he goes home)

Glue the soft fabric square onto the construction paper, leaving the top open. Put Samuel in bed and cover him with the blanket.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather children around you.

Blessing:

**May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.**

*Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly
make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your
hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)*

**And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.**

*Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then
move your hands out to the sides.*

**And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,
keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!**

Cross your hands over the heart.

*Move to a "strong man" position. Then
cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to
communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and
the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

Sing: Jesus Loves Me

***Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.***

***Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.***