



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.

WORD OF WONDER: God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. —Ephesians 3:20

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What would you ask for if you knew the answer would be “yes”?
- SMALL GROUP
- Interactive Game: Believe It or Not?
- Declaring God’s Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Unstoppable God, Here With Me
- God’s Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Answers Prayers

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 1

WORD OF WONDER: Ephesians 3:20

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 that 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, reminding others of God's presence in those moments. God answers prayers, and sometimes we get to be part of that answer.

—Christina Embree

Nonprofit Ministry Director and Minister of Generational Discipleship
Contributor to Wonder Ink

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).

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Answers Prayers

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As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop.

Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be sure to move to their level and introduce yourself to any new friends. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

Welcome Question

Consider using a **30 or 2:00 Countdown** to let leaders and kids know it's almost time to begin!

At Your Start Time...

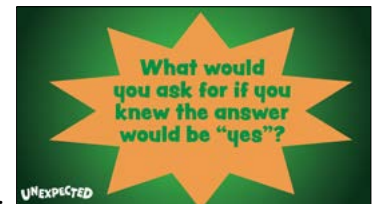
SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question board:

What would you ask for if you knew the answer would be “yes”?

Encourage kids to be creative as they share their answers with one another.

They might share about a person they know or a character from a book or movie. If kids prefer, they can draw a picture answering the question. Invite small group leaders to begin.



Leader Tip: Kids will learn today that God answers prayers and is able to do far more than we can ask for or imagine. While prayer requests are always encouraged, the Welcome Question is designed to be fun, imaginative, and easy for all kids to answer and participate in, especially those who may be attending church for the first time. Consider sharing a lighthearted example, like asking for a pet hippo or an ice cream parlor inside your house, to help kids get started.

Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! I have a little game for us first today!"

Interactive Game: Believe It or Not?

SUPPLIES: paper (2), marker (prep only), tape (prep only)

SLIDE: BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Ahead of time, use a marker to write the words "Believe It!" on one sheet of paper and "Not!" on another. Tape them to the wall on opposite sides of the room. **"We're going to play a game called "Believe It or Not?" I will read a statement, and you will decide if you "Believe It!" (point to the "Believe It!" sign) or "Not!" (point to the "Not!" sign). Then you will move to the side of the room**



that represents your choice." Advance to the next slide and read the first statement. Encourage kids to move to the side of the room that represents their choice. Once all the kids have chosen a side, reveal the correct answer. Then advance to the next slide. For your reference, here are the seven statements and their answers:

1. **SLIDE:** Porcupines can float.
Answer: Believe It!
2. **SLIDE:** Gelatin was the first food eaten in space.
Answer: Not! Applesauce was the first food.
3. **SLIDE:** An octopus has five brains.
Answer: Not! An octopus has eight brains.
4. **SLIDE:** Kangaroos can't walk backwards.
Answer: Believe It!
5. **SLIDE:** Venus is the only planet that spins clockwise.
Answer: Believe It!
6. **SLIDE:** Mustard was once sold as medicine.
Answer: Not! However, ketchup was sold as medicine.
7. **SLIDE:** The average yawn lasts six seconds.
Answer: Believe It!

Leader Tip: Incorporate more movement into this activity by asking kids to move across the room in different ways, such as by running, skipping, walking in slow motion, and moving like the animal being described.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Wow! Does anyone feel like yawning after that last question? I don't know about you, but some of those facts are hard to believe. However, just because something is hard to believe doesn't mean it isn't true. In God's big story today, you will hear how God answered a prayer in a way that was difficult to believe. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS.**"



Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You love talking and listening to me. (Kids repeat.)

You hear and answer my prayers. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, You answer prayers in a way that is far more than we could ask or imagine. Through Your Holy Spirit, help us to see and believe this truth today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

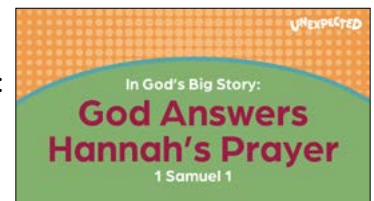
WORSHIP VIDEOS: Unstoppable God, Here With Me

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

"Today's part of God's big story comes from First Samuel chapter one. It tells the story of Samuel's birth. Samuel was a special baby and became a very important prophet who anointed the first two kings of Israel."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY



LESSON 3 **GOD ANSWERS HANNAH'S PRAYER** **EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT**

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils

Ahead of time, help kids form four groups and assign each group a number from 1 to 4. Give each group paper and coloring utensils. All four groups should be seated where they can see and hear you.

"I'm so glad you're here for today's part of God's big story. I'm going to need your help telling it. How many of you love to draw? Allow kids to respond. That's great! No matter your drawing ability, we're all going to do our best to draw some scenes from the Bible.

Now, I know you haven't learned the story yet, so I'm going to do my best to describe the people you're going to draw. Let's start with group 1! I would like each of you to draw a picture of a husband and wife together. They are very, very sad. When I tell you today's part of God's big story, you'll find out wh . Let group 1 begin drawing.

Next, I would like group 2 to draw a picture of a woman praying. She is talking to God and praying passionately to Him, telling Him why she is so sad. Do you think you can draw that? Allow kids to respond. Great! Let group 2 begin drawing.

Now, group 3 is going to draw a picture of a husband and wife, but this time they are happy. I don't want you to draw "regular happy," but the happiest happy you can draw! Maybe think about a time you got the best gift ever; do you have that image in your mind? Now draw that kind of happy! Let group 3 begin drawing.

Our last group is going to draw a picture of a baby boy. In just a minute, you'll find out why this baby boy is so special. Let group 4 begin drawing.

Give kids a couple minutes to complete their drawings. Assure them it's OK if they don't finish their drawings; they can still participate. Address group 1: **Who thinks they have a really good picture of a husband and a wife? Choose one volunteer. Wonderful! I'd like you to come up here next to me. Don't show us yet, but when I point to you during God's big story, I want you to turn your picture around for everyone to see.** Give the same directions for each group, selecting one volunteer who has a picture of a woman praying, one of a happy husband and wife, and one of a baby boy. Make sure your volunteers are standing in the order of their groups.

Let's get started with our story from the Bible! God's chosen people, the Israelites, had finished their years of wandering in the wilderness. They had found a place to make their home and built cities and set up God's tabernacle, their place of worship, at a place called Shiloh. Unlike the other nations around them, the Israelites didn't have a king; instead, their land was ruled by judges. The Israelites trusted the judges to lead them and the priests to guide them as they worshiped God.

Point to the first volunteer and have her show her picture to the group. **Two of those Israelites were Elkanah and Hannah. They were married and wanted to have children. But Hannah could not have kids, and this deeply saddened them. Hannah wondered why she couldn't have a baby. Whenever the family would go to the tabernacle to worship, Elkanah would offer God a double sacrifice or Hannah, asking God to let her have a baby.**

This picture sure looks like a sad Elkanah and Hannah. Commend your volunteer for doing a good job drawing before hearing the details from the story. **I'd love to see all your drawings too!** Allow kids in the first group to hold up their drawings from where they are seated for everyone to see.

One year, after Elkanah and Hannah finished worshipping at the tabernacle, Hannah returned there by herself. Point to the second volunteer and ask him to turn his picture around. **She was so sad. She sat down in the tabernacle and started crying and praying. She said to God, "LORD, you rule over all. Please see how I'm suffering! ... Please give me a son! If you do, I'll give him back to the LORD. Then he will serve the LORD all the days of his life"** (1 Samuel 1:11). **One of the priests named Eli saw Hannah praying. Hannah wasn't praying out loud because she was crying; she was praying in her heart and her mouth moved along with those words. Eli thought she was up to no good. He went over to her because he didn't think she should be in God's tabernacle acting like that.**

Look at the picture of praying Hannah. **How about that? Our praying Hannah over here does look like she's praying hard, telling God just how sad she is. Great job! Let's see the rest of your pictures!** Allow kids in the second group to hold up their drawings.

Hannah explained to Eli that she was sad and praying silently. Eli listened to her story, and his heart listened to God. Then he said to her, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you have asked him for" (1 Samuel 1:17). **In response, Hannah said, "May you be pleased with me"** (1 Samuel 1:18). **She left and had something to eat. Hannah didn't feel sad anymore.**

Early the next morning, Hannah and her husband woke up early and worshiped the Lord; then they returned home. Sure enough, in several months, God answered Hannah's prayer. Point to the third volunteer and invite her to show her picture to everyone. **Let's see the picture of our happy husband and wife! Perfect! They sure do look happy! What do your happy pictures look like?** Allow kids in the third group to hold up their pictures.

Elkanah and Hannah were happy because Hannah had a son. She named him Samuel. Let's see our picture of baby Samuel. Allow the final volunteer to turn around his picture. **How cute! How about the rest of you in group 4? What do your baby Samuels look like?** Allow those in the final group to share their pictures.

When Samuel was old enough, he went to the tabernacle to work with Eli the priest. Eventually, Samuel became a prophet for the Lord and anointed the first and second kings of Israel.

Just like God heard Hannah, He hears you. He is faithful to His promise to always be with us. We can pray to Him and trust in His faithfulness. God's answers to our prayers might not be as fast as we want or the way we want, but He is always faithful to hear us and answer us in the best possible way. God answers prayers."

Leader Tip: If you have a space in your area, consider having volunteers tape their pictures to a wall or on a board where kids can see the story in images.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Hannah kept praying year after year until God answered her prayer.

She didn't give up; this is called perseverance. Hundreds of years later, Jesus taught His disciples to have this type of perseverance when they prayed. He told them to "always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1). Like Hannah and like Jesus' disciples, we can be certain God hears and will answer our prayers!"



Responding in Worship: Prayer Stations

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

*****Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.**

WORSHIP VIDEO: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus



Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: God knows you, sees you, and hears you. He is writing your story and is able to do far more than you could ask for or imagine through the power of His Spirit at work in you. May you trust in God all the days of your life, for His ways are always best.