



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 can do more than we could ever imagine. —from Ephesians 3:20

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Mighty God, You Are With Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

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: From 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 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.

—Christina Embree

Nonprofit Ministry Director and Minister of Generational Discipleship
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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).



LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Answers Prayers

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 1

WORD OF WONDER: From Ephesians 3:20

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: I hope you remember our good friend, Tac the Cat! He always has some good questions for us. Hey Tac, how are you?

Tac the Cat: I'm pretty excited, actually! Did you hear about my friend, Drib the bird?

Leader: No. What happened with Drib?

Tac the Cat: Drib lost his favorite toy a few days ago. I had one just like it, and I was sad we didn't have matching toys anymore. But then Drib told me the most amazing thing today! Drib said he prayed and asked God to help him find his toy. Do you know what happened?

Leader: What? What happened?

Tac the Cat: Drib found it! Drib's mom saw it at the end of their yard. Imagine that! God answered Drib's prayer!

Leader: That's so cool, Tac!

Tac the Cat: Yeah! I saw that God answered Drib's prayer and it made me curious. Do you think He could answer my prayer?

Leader: I think so! What's your prayer, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Well, I have this other friend I've been inviting to church with me, but they can never come. I really, really hope they can come with me next week. Do you think I can pray for that?

Leader: Absolutely, Tac! God loves answering our prayers, especially when those prayers match with His own heart! I'll pray with you that your friend is able to make it to church with you next week.

Tac the Cat: Thank you! I'm so excited to see how God answers this prayer!

Leader: Me too, Tac. Bye!

Tac the Cat: Bye!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What are some prayers God has answered? Allow the kids to respond. Do you think God always answer prayers the way we think He will? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God answers your prayers?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS**. Today, we'll discover how God answers our prayers!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

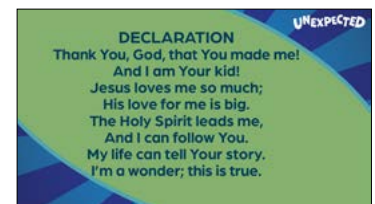
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



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, thank You for answering our prayers. Help us trust in You more and more and in what You've promised. We invite You to speak to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God answers prayers. Let's sing about God answering our prayers together!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Mighty God, You Are With Me

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? ((Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible."

VIDEO: God's Big Story

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape, scissors (prep only), cardstock (optional)

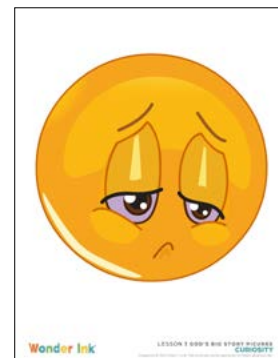
RESOURCES: God's Big Story Pictures (1 set per SG plus 1)

Ahead of time, print one set of the God's Big Story Pictures for each kid, plus a set for you. You may want to print them onto cardstock for durability.

Before you begin storytelling, pass out one set of God's Big Story Pictures to each group.

"As I share about God's big story today, I'm going to hold up some pictures, and you can hold up the same picture from the stack of pictures you have.

Let's practice. Hold up the "sad" picture and invite the kids to hold up the same picture from their cards. **Great job! I think we're ready.**



After wandering in the wilderness for many years, God's chosen people, the Israelites, were finally living in the Promised Land. Unlike the other nations around them, the Israelites didn't have a king; instead, they were ruled by judges. The Israelites trusted the judges to lead them and priests to teach them as they worshiped God.

Elkanah and Hannah were two Israelites living at that time. They were married and wanted to have children. But Hannah couldn't have kids, and this made them very sad. Hold up the picture of the sad face and pause for kids to hold up their cards. **Hannah wondered why she couldn't have a baby.** Hold up the picture of the baby and pause for kids to hold up their cards. **Whenever Elkanah and Hannah went to the tabernacle (a special place where people worshiped God), Elkanah would offer a double sacrifice for Hannah, asking God to let her have a baby.** Hold up the picture of the baby and pause for kids to hold up their cards.

One year, after they finished worshipping at the tabernacle, Hannah returned there by herself. She was so sad. Hold up the picture of the sad face and pause for kids to hold up their cards.

She sat down in the tabernacle and started crying and praying. Hold up the praying image and pause for kids to hold up their cards. **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.** Hold up the praying image and pause for kids to hold up their cards. **He asked her what she was doing.**

Hannah told him she was sad and praying for a son. 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). Hannah replied, "May you be pleased with me" (1 Samuel 1:18). When she left the temple, Hannah didn't feel sad anymore. Hold up the sad card and pause for the kids to hold up theirs as well.

Early the next morning, Hannah and her husband woke up early and worshiped the Lord; then they returned home. Before long, Hannah had a baby son. Hold up the baby image and pause for kids to hold up their cards. **How do you think Hannah and Elkanah felt when their child was born?**

Interact with responses. **Yes, they must have been very happy.** Hold up the happy face image and pause for kids to hold up their cards.

Hannah named her son Samuel, and 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 two kings of Israel.

Just like God heard Hannah, He hears you. He is faithful to His promise to always be with us. We can talk to Him and trust in His faithfulness. When we ask God for something, He might not always answer when or how we want Him to, but He is always faithful to hear us and answer us in the best possible way. God answers prayers. Hold up the praying image and pause for kids to hold up their cards.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth 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. Many years later, Jesus taught His disciples to have perseverance and keep praying and praying. 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!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for how He hears and answers our prayers. Use your own words. Here is an example:

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 and talk with You. 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. Use your own words. Here is an example:

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.