



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

- Play Stations:
 - Toy Phones
 - God Answers Hannah's Prayer Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: What's in Here?
- Word of Wonder: From Ephesians 3:20
- Circle Time: Mystery Object
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Responding in Worship: Prayer Cups
- Closing Game: God Answers Hannah Actions



[Unexpected Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



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
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).



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy telephones, coloring utensils,

RESOURCES: God Answers Hannah's Prayer Coloring Sheet

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Toy Telephones

Set-up: Lay out toy telephones for kids to play with (old cell phones, rotary phones, cordless phones, etc.).

Play: Encourage kids to "call" and "answer" each other on the phones.

Play Station: God Answers Hannah's Prayer Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something they want to ask God for.

Curiosity Activity: What's in Here?

SUPPLIES: opaque containers with lids (3), dry beans (enough to fill a container), cotton balls (enough to fill a container), water (enough to fill a container)

Before beginning, fill one container with beans, one with cotton balls, and one with water. Don't let the kids see what's in the containers.

I have a question for you. What usually comes after a question or a request? Pause for responses.
An answer! Yes. And you just answered my question!

In this game, I will shake one of these containers (point to a container) **and ask the question, "What's in here?" You can answer by telling me what you think is inside.**

Hold up the container of dry beans and shake it gently. Invite the kids to come close to listen to the container. **Here's my question: What's in here?** Allow kids to share their answers. If kids need a hint, you can say something like "It's a type of food. It can be black or refried." **You've got it—beans!**

Awesome! Hold up the container of cotton balls and shake it gently. **This might be tough. Get ready with your answers. What's in here?** Allow kids to share their answers. Again, you can give hints like "They're white and soft" and "You can't eat them." **Very good. Cotton balls is the answer.**

Great job! Last container. Hold up the container of water and shake it gently. **Get ready to answer. What's in here?** Allow kids to share their answers. **Yes, it's water!**

You've done a great job answering the question we had today. Did you know you can ask God questions? You can also tell Him about anything you need. God invites us to talk with Him and ask for His help. When we talk to God, it's called prayer. We can talk with Him any time. God loves it when we talk with Him. He will always answer us, even if the answer is different than what we wanted. God knows what's best for us and is always working for our good. We know we can talk to God about anything because God answers prayers!"

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

God can do more than we could ever imagine.

—from Ephesians 3:20

"Let's practice our Word of Wonder for this week! In this game, you'll need to listen closely to me and repeat the verse exactly the way I say it. You might need to listen really well to hear part of the verse. Ready? OK!

Say the Word of Wonder several times with the kids repeating after you. Each time you say the verse, pick a word to whisper quietly. For example:

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

Wow—great listening! And each of you answered me by repeating the Word of Wonder exactly how you heard it. Great job! Let's practice our Word of Wonder with our motions next."

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **CAN DO MORE THAN**—Spread your arms wide.
- **WE COULD EVER IMAGINE**.—Point to forehead.
- **FROM EPHESIANS 3:20**—Hold your hands together in front, then open your palms, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What is one thing you imagine God can do? What has God done for you?**
- **What does this verse tell us about God?**

God's Big Story / Snack

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

Read 1 Samuel 1:9–11; 20 from an NIV Bible.

Circle Time: Mystery Object

SUPPLIES: opaque large bag or container, 8 common objects (marker, apple, toy telephone, etc.)

Before kids arrive, place the objects in an opaque bag or container so the kids don't see which objects are hidden.

I've got eight objects in this bag. Show the bag or container. **To see who will answer each discussion question today, you'll have to try to guess what one of the items hidden in here is. I'll describe the objects one at a time. If you think you know what I'm talking about, raise your hand. If you guess correctly, I'll ask you one of the discussion questions. Let's do it!**

Describe the objects in the bag one at a time without revealing exactly what each item is. For example, you can say, "It's yellow. You can eat it. It grows on trees. That's right, a banana!"

Each time a kid answers correctly, ask that child a discussion question from the list below. After the discussion, pick another object and begin again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Why was Hannah sad?** (She couldn't have kids.)
- **What did Hannah ask the Lord for?** (a baby boy)
- **How did Hannah feel when she left the tabernacle?** (She was no longer sad.)
- **What did God do for Hannah?** (He answered her prayers. He gave her a son.)
- **What is prayer?** (talking with God)
- **When can you pray?**
- **Do you think God hears your prayers? Why or why not?**
- **What is a prayer you are asking for God to answer?**

Hannah trusted God. That's why she kept asking God for a son. And God answered her prayers! We can ask God for anything because we know God loves us and listens to us. He may not always answer in the way or time we expect Him to, but we can trust that God answers prayers. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for how He answers our prayers.

Head to Large Group!!

Responding in Worship: Prayer Cups

SUPPLIES: large disposable cups (1 per kid), markers, colored cardstock or construction paper (several sheets), scissors or paper cutter (prep only), **Prayer Cup Parent Label (1 label per kid)**, stickers, tape

Before you begin, cut the cardstock or construction paper into strips at least 2" wide. You'll need several for each kid.

"God loves when we pray! He listens to us and answers us. We're going to make Prayer Cups that will remind us to pray, and you can use them to celebrate when God answers your prayers too."

Show kids the cups and the colorful strips of paper. Give the kids time to decorate their cups and place the strips inside them. Kids can draw on the cups with markers, add stickers to them, or any items you have to decorate



You can take home your cups and use the strips of paper to write about or draw your prayers—one strip per prayer—and place them into the cups. You can pull out the prayer strips to keep praying for that request. When God answers your prayer, you can place that strip somewhere special. You could place it in a book, attach it to a wall, or put it on your fridge."

Make sure each cup gets a Parent Cup Label strip placed in it before kids leave.

Closing Activity: God Answered Hannah Actions

What did Hannah ask for when she prayed? Allow the kids time to answer. **Yes, she prayed for a baby! We're going to remember what God did for Hannah as we play this game.**

First, we remember that Hannah was sad. When I say, "sad face," show a sad face. Let's practice. Say "sad face" and let kids make sad faces. **Good job!**

Then, we remember that Hannah prayed. When I say, "praying hands," you stop and show praying hands by placing them together in front of you. Model how to hold your hands in prayer. **Let's practice.** Say "praying hands" and let kids make praying hands motion.

How did Hannah feel after she prayed? She probably felt happy! When I say, "happy face," show me your biggest, most joyful face. What does yours look like? Allow actions.

And then God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a baby! When I say, "little baby," you can rock your arms back and forth. Demonstrate the action of rocking a baby. **Show me how you rock a baby.** Allow actions.

Are you ready? Let's play! Allow kids to move around as they play this game. Call out the four actions—sad face, praying hands, happy face, little baby. You might want to start slowly and then call out the actions faster and faster. Feel free to mix up the actions also for an added challenge.