

## **July 12\*Unit 10\*Session 1\*Elementary**

### **Hannah & Samuel**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 1–3

**STORY POINT:** God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Jeremiah 10:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

**Opening Activity:** Called by name

Choose two kids to stand at the front of the room. Instruct the rest of the kids to place their heads down and close their eyes. Silently point to one of the two kids. She will say the name of one of the kids with their eyes closed. She may attempt to disguise her voice. Then, the kid whose name was called will lift his head and attempt to guess who called his name. If he is correct, the two should swap places. If not, he will place his head back down. Continue playing as time allows, choosing new kids to call names.

SAY •When you know someone is calling your name, it's natural to respond. But what happens if you don't know who is calling your name? Today we will hear about a time a boy named Samuel heard his name, but was wrong about who called it!

## **THE BIBLE STORY**

Hannah and Samuel

1 Samuel 1–3

In a country called Ephraim, a man named Elkanah lived with his wife Hannah. Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. Hannah wanted to have a family. Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to make sacrifices to God and to worship Him. Hannah went with him. Hannah prayed to God, "Lord, if You give me a son, I will dedicate him to You. He will serve You all of his life." A priest named Eli was sitting near the doorpost of the tabernacle. Eli watched Hannah pray. He couldn't hear her, but he saw her lips moving. Eli thought there was something wrong with Hannah. Hannah explained, "I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord." Eli replied, "Go in peace. May God answer your prayers."

Hannah and Elkanah returned home, and God did answer her prayers. After some time, Hannah gave birth to a son.

She named him Samuel. When Samuel was no longer a baby, Hannah took him to Eli at the tabernacle. "God answered my prayers!" she said. Hannah pledged Samuel to serve God, and she worshiped God.

Hannah returned home and left Samuel with Eli to serve God. Every year, Hannah returned with a new robe for Samuel, and God gave Hannah many more children. Eli was getting old, and his sons served as priests in the tabernacle. Eli heard that his sons were sinning against God. Eli asked his sons why they were sinning, but they did not listen to him. Samuel, on the other hand, grew older and found favor with God and with men. One night, Eli was in his bed and Samuel was lying in the tabernacle when Samuel heard someone call his name. "Here I am," Samuel replied. He ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me." But it wasn't Eli. He told Samuel to go back to bed. God called Samuel three times, and each time Samuel ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. Eli finally understood that God was calling to Samuel. He told Samuel how to respond. Samuel went back to his place, and God called, "Samuel, Samuel!" "Speak, for Your servant is listening," Samuel replied. God told Samuel that He was going to judge Eli's family for their sin. The next day, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God said, so Samuel did. As Samuel grew, God was with him. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God's messenger. God used Samuel to share His plan with the nation of Israel.

**Christ Connection:** Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God's plan and showed what God is like.

### **Key passage activity**

Invite your kids to say the key passage from memory. Help them by providing words if they get stuck. Praise each kid's efforts and encourage kids to continue working to memorize the key passage. Then, invite them to play a gathering game. Write each word of the key passage on a separate card. Scatter the cards around the room and ask the kids to gather them. Then, challenge them to work together to put the cards in the right order to form the key passage.

**SAY** •Our key passage was written by a prophet, a messenger from God. His name was Jeremiah, and he wrote many years after Samuel lived. Jeremiah saw that God's people were not honoring God or obeying Him. God told Jeremiah to write warnings to them. Part of Jeremiah's writings were to remind the people who God is and how wonderfully amazing and powerful He is. Is anything or anyone greater

than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

## **Discussion & Bible skills**

Ask the following questions:

- 1. What did Hannah want very badly?** (a child, a son; 1 Sam. 1:6-11)
- 2. What did Hannah do after Samuel was born?** (dedicated him to the Lord, 1 Sam. 1:26-28)
- 3. What did Samuel say after he knew it was God calling him?** ("Speak, for your servant is listening"; 1 Sam. 3:10)
- 4. Will God always give us what we ask for in prayer?** Guide kids to see that God loves to give us good gifts. Help them understand that when we ask for things in prayer, we can trust that God will give us what is best for us. That means that sometimes God will give us what we want, but sometimes He will not. When God does not give us something, it is because that thing is not for His glory and our good.
- 5. How can we hear from God today?** Help kids see that the primary way God speaks to us today is through His Word. Remind the kids that we can hear from God through the Holy Spirit or even through other Christians whom God may use, but if we ever think God is telling us something that goes against the Bible, that message is not from God.
- 6. Can you think of times you have been afraid to share God's message with others?** Guide kids to discuss their fears or insecurities honestly. Share times in your life that you knew what God's Word said about something but were afraid to tell others. Talk about ways to overcome fear and speak the truth in a way that is loving.

SAY •God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. We  
can share God's plan, too, by sharing the gospel.

## **Craft:** Name tag door hangers

Cut heavyweight paper into thirds and distribute them, one third per kid. Instruct the kids to write their names on their cards and decorate them using the glitter glue, stickers, or other craft supplies. Help the kids punch one hole in each of the top two corners and thread a length of yarn through both. The kids will tie the yarn into a loop so that the card can be hung from a doorknob or bedpost.

SAY •Our names are important to identify us. Today we  
will hear about a time God called a young boy by  
name.

## **Reflection and prayer**

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

**End by praying together**