

# September 13, 2020 Elementary

**Bible Passage:** Hannah and Samuel / 1 Samuel 1–3

**Story Point:** God called Hannah’s son to share God’s plan.

**Memory Verse:** Jeremiah 10:6: “There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might.”

**Big Picture Question:** Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

**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.*

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## **\* BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

The time of the judges was turbulent for God’s people. The Israelites had conquered the promised land of Canaan, but after Joshua’s death, they fell into a cycle of sin. This was the culture in which Hannah and her husband Elkanah lived. They were ordinary Israelites—Elkanah, a devoted worshiper of the Lord; and Hannah, a woman who wanted nothing more than to be a mother. But the Lord had closed her womb. (1 Sam. 1:5)

One year, when Elkanah went to make sacrifices and worship God, Hannah went too. She could no longer hide her grief over being childless. She prayed so fervently to the Lord—asking for a child and vowing to dedicate him to God—that Eli the priest rebuked her because he thought she was drunk.

God answered Hannah’s prayers, and she named her son Samuel, which means “requested from God.” When Samuel was old enough to wean, Hannah presented him to Eli. First Samuel 2 records Hannah’s triumphant prayer. Hannah glorified God for His sovereignty; then she went home with her husband, leaving Samuel to serve God under the leadership of Eli.

Hannah visited Samuel each year and brought him a robe. Samuel faithfully served God. On the other hand, Eli’s sons—though they were priests—had no regard for God. They did

not listen to Eli, so God rejected Eli's family. This hard news came to Eli through the boy Samuel.

Review 1 Samuel 3. Note how Samuel responded to God's call: "Speak, for Your servant is listening." Today, help kids identify Samuel's role as God's messenger. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. Lead them to them connect Samuel to Jesus. 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.

## **\* BIBLE STORY:**

***Use the Bible storytelling tips below to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video, or both!***

**INTRO:** At the time of our Bible story today, God's people were ruled by judges. You might remember that after the Israelites left Egypt, a man named Moses led them toward the promised land. But the people sinned by not trusting God. The consequence for their sin was that God would not allow them to enter the promised land. Their children would enter instead. Moses died, and Joshua became the people's leader. He led them into the promised land. But when Joshua died, the people ignored God and forgot about Him. God provided new leaders called judges to lead the people. Today's Bible story is called "Hannah and Samuel." Samuel was the last judge to lead Israel.

### **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.**

**OUTRO:** The Bible says Hannah prayed out of a broken heart. Her husband told her not to be sad, and Eli thought something was wrong with her, but she poured out her heart to God anyway. She didn’t try to hide her feelings from God or only pray what she thought God wanted to hear. She trusted that God was good and powerful. She knew that He would listen to her even if no one else would. She knew that He could answer her prayer when no one else could.

When Samuel was born to Hannah, she dedicated him to God. Samuel grew up in the temple. **God called Hannah’s son to share God’s plan,** but the Bible explains that when God first called Samuel, he did not know God. He thought Eli was calling! That night, Samuel did not seek out God; God sought out Samuel. All Samuel had to do was listen. Our God is the One who seeks after us. He does not sit in heaven and say, “You have to do enough good things before I will listen to you or speak to you.” Instead, God speaks to us through His Word.

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.

God sent Jesus down to us to show us His power and love. No one is like God. ***Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.***

### **\*Christ Connection:**

***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.

### **\*GOSPEL PLAN:**

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

### **\*PRAYER**

## **\* KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

### **KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

Our memory verse is Jeremiah 10:6: "There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might."

Can you say it with me? Repeat after me...

"There is none like you, O Lord"

"You are great"

'And your name is great in might'

"Jeremiah 10:6"

## **\*DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- What did Hannah want very badly? (*a child, a son; 1 Sam. 1:6-11*)
- What did Hannah do after Samuel was born? (*dedicated him to the Lord, 1 Sam. 1:26-28*)
- What did Samuel say after he knew it was God calling him? ("*Speak, for your servant is listening*"; *1 Sam. 3:10*)
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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*

## **\*ACTIVITY:**

### **ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE**

Invite kids to complete the "What Sense Is It?" activity page. The left column represents different sensations, and the right column represents the senses we might use to experience each. Challenge the kids to match the sensation with the sense most associated with that sensation.

**Say** • We use our senses to experience all kinds of things in the world. Today, we will learn about a young boy who heard God calling his name. Do you think he knew it was God?

### **SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!**

One at a time whistle or hum familiar tunes. Challenge your family to guess what tune is being whistled or hummed. Play multiple rounds as time allows.

**Say** • Great job guessing those tunes. You had to listen closely to hear and pay close attention to remember where you may have heard the music before. In a similar way, we need to listen closely to God's Word if we want to hear Him speak to us through it. The ways God gets our attention today have changed, but His desire to speak to you and His love for people have not changed. He wants all people to hear the gospel and trust in Jesus to be saved.

**God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.** He also calls all believers to be a part of His plan to share the good news of Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus and show them His love.

### **NAME TAG DOOR HANGERS**

Use the door hanger template. Instruct your child to write their name on the door hanger and decorate them using craft supplies you have at home.

**Say** • Our names are important to identify us. Today we heard about a time God called a young boy by name, Samuel.