

September 13, 2020 PreK

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

Story Point: God spoke to Hannah's son Samuel.

Key Passage/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 greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

Christ Connection: *Samuel told people what God is like and what He would do. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a human. He told people about God's plan showed the world 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 preschoolers identify Samuel's role as God's messenger. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. Lead them to 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:**

Turn your bibles to 1 Samuel 1 with the help of your preschooler.

INTRO: We have an awesome story today from the Bible. The Bible is God's Word, and all the stories in it are true! Today's Bible story is found in the Old Testament. The Old Testament tells about the things that happened before Jesus lived on the earth. Let's watch our video.

Hannah and Samuel

1 Samuel 1–3

A man named **Elkanah** (el KAY nuh) **lived with his wife Hannah** in the hill country. **Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to worship God. Hannah went with him.** Hannah would cry and not eat.

"What's wrong, Hannah?" Elkanah would ask. **Hannah was sad because she did not have any children.** Hannah wanted a family.

One day, **Hannah prayed** to God: "**Lord, if You give me a son, I will give him to You. He will serve You all of his life.**"

Eli the priest was sitting nearby. He watched Hannah pray. Eli **thought something was wrong with Hannah.**

"**I am very sad,**" Hannah told Eli. "**I've been telling God how I feel.**"

Eli said, "Go in peace. **May God give you what you asked for.**"

Hannah and Elkanah went home, and God did give her what she asked for! **After some time, Hannah gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel.**

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him to the tabernacle. "God gave me what I asked for!" Hannah said. Hannah worshiped God. Then she left Samuel with Eli **to serve God,** and Hannah went home. **Every year, Hannah visited Samuel and brought him a new robe.** God gave Hannah many more children.

Now Eli was getting old. His sons were priests in the tabernacle, but Eli heard that his sons were not obeying God. Eli asked them, "Why are you doing bad things?" But they did not listen to him.

Samuel grew older and obeyed God. **One night, Samuel was lying in the tabernacle when he heard someone's voice.**

"Here I am," Samuel replied. **He ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me."**

But Eli did not call Samuel. Eli told Samuel to lie back down.

Again Samuel heard someone call him. "Samuel!" God called Samuel three times. Each time, Samuel ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. Eli knew it must be God. Eli told Samuel what to say.

Samuel lay down. God called, "Samuel, Samuel!"

This time, **Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." God told Samuel that He was going to punish Eli's family for disobeying Him.**

The next day, **Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God had said. Samuel** was afraid because God's message was bad news for Eli, but he **told him** anyway.

As Samuel grew, **God was with Samuel, and everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God's messenger.**

Christ Connection: Samuel told people what God is like and what He would do. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a human. He told people about God's plan showed the world what God is like.

OUTRO: God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her baby Samuel. When Samuel was older, he went to live at the tabernacle where he helped Eli the priest. How wonderful that **God spoke to Hannah's son Samuel!** Samuel told Eli what God said, and Eli learned what God planned to do. God's Son, Jesus, also told people about God's plan. Jesus showed the world what God is like.

*** GOSPEL PLAN:**

Please use the 4 headers, but feel free to use your own words to explain each.

God is King. Ask: "Who is charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.

We Sinned. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.

God Sent Jesus. Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment of sin.

Jesus Loves. Ask: “Do you like presents?” Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

*** KEY PASSAGE:**

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”

*** PRAYER**

*** ACTIVITY:**

ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE:

Point out that each picture shows only a half of the figure. Draw lines to match the halves.

Say • You matched the two halves of Samuel; his mother, Hannah; and Eli the priest. Eli served God at the tabernacle. Eli saw Hannah praying in the tabernacle. In our Bible story today, we heard how **God spoke to Hannah’s son Samuel**. Samuel told Eli what God said.

Say messages through tubes:

Give a child a piece of paper. Demonstrate how to roll it into a cylinder and tape it closed. Whisper a message to a child through the tube. Retell segments of the Bible story to a child by speaking through the tube. Invite boys and girls to whisper what they remember about Samuel. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 3 and point to the name **Samuel**.

Say • Here is the place in the Bible where we hear that **God spoke to Hannah’s son Samuel** while he was lying down in the tabernacle. Samuel listened to God’s message and told Eli what God said. Samuel told people what God is like. Jesus showed people what God is like.

Paint and worship

Write the key passage at the top of a sheet of paper for your child. Jeremiah 10:6: “There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might.”

Open the Bible to Jeremiah 10:6. Point to the key passage and read it. Point to the words on a child's paper as you say them.

Suggest your child paint a picture under the key passage of something they can thank God for (family, church, food, pet). Play worshipful music as you paint.

Say • Hannah and her husband worshiped God at the tabernacle. Hannah prayed there and asked God to give her a baby boy. When God answered her prayer and gave her a son, she thanked God because of how great He is. ***Is there anything greater than God? No, Hannah knew that God is greater than everything.***

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Why was Hannah sad when she and her husband went to the tabernacle? (*She had no children.*)
- What did Hannah ask God for? (*a son*)
- What did Hannah name the baby boy God gave her? (*Samuel*)
- Who spoke to Samuel when he was resting? (**God spoke to Hannah's son Samuel.**)