

# Samuel and Hannah

**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 1-3

**Memory Verse:** <sup>6</sup>No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. **Jeremiah 10:6**

**Bottom Line:** I trust Jesus and pray because no one and nothing is greater than Him.

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

**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.

## Leader Notes:

### CONTEXT

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.

### TEACHING FOCUS (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.

#### TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- **Hannah didn't hide her feelings from God. She was real and honest with Him.**
- **God will listen even when no one else will listen.**
- **God will answer your prayer even when no one else can help.**
- **BL: I trust Jesus and pray because no one and nothing is greater than Him.**

#### Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

**What You Do: Introduce the Story**

"Hannah wanted to have a baby. At the tabernacle, Hannah prayed, "God is You give me a son, I will give him to You." God answered Hannah's prayer with a son named Samuel! When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to Eli. "This is the son I prayed for. I am giving him to God," she said. Samuel lived with Eli in the tabernacle, and his family visited him every year. Every year, Hannah brought her son a little robe. One night, Samuel heard someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli, but it was God! God gave Samuel a special message about Eli's family. God was with Samuel, and Samuel grew to be a prophet.

#### PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

## Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

### 1. Sound Recognition Game

**What You Need:** Video of Farm animal sounds, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uF74DU34q2Y>)

**What You Do:**

- Play the video and get kids to take turns guessing the sounds they hear.
- Then take turns calling a child's name. "[Child's name], [Child's name]."
- When they hear their name they should come running to you.
- Repeat for each toddler.

**What You Say** "What was your favorite animal sound? Can you do it for me? Learning to listen is important. When your mom calls you, you are practicing listening. God called Samuel by name when he was a young boy. God used Samuel to tell people His words. Jesus told people God's plan and showed what God is like.

**BL: I trust Jesus and pray because no one and nothing is greater than Him."**

## 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "No one is like you (shake your head, like saying no), Lord (point to the sky); you are great ( sign for "great", both hands up like giving a double high five), and your name is mighty in power (flex your muscles)

**What You Say** " God used a young boy like Samuel to get His message to Eli the priest. There is no one like our great God!"

### **Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** coloring page

**What You Do:**

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to color before parents come to pick them up, or send home to color at home.

**What You Say:** "God, Thank You for calling Samuel to be Your messenger. Help us hear from You each day through the Holy Spirit and through Your Word. Give us ears that want to listen to You and hearts that want to love and obey You. Amen."