



Samuel and Hannah

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1-3

Key Passage: ⁶No 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.

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Yank Me Around Minute to Win it

What You Need: 10 cups, 8 pieces of cardstock, Minute to Win It score card, pencils

What You Do:

- Create 2 teams of kids.
- Stack 5 cups and 4 pieces of cardstock for each team into a tower with a piece of cardstock in between each cup.
- When you say "go" kids are going to quickly and carefully yank out each piece of paper so that the cups fall and next into a single stack. |
- If you knock the tower over, set it up and begin again.
- Award points to players who successfully complete the task in under a minute
- Restack the cups and give the next person on the team 1 minute to complete.
- The team with the most points at the end is grand supreme winner.
- Hint: flicking the cards instead of yanking them out can sometimes work best.

What You Say "This summer we are playing a different game each time you come to small group. As we play we should get to know each other's names and see if there is a way we can learn from our Bible story as well. It's time for large group, let's clean up and get ready to see what story we have today."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

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.**

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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.*



Activity: Prayer Cards

What You Need: Prayer Cards Printable (1 set per kid), scissors, hole punches, 1 inch binder rings (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Print the prayer cards on heavyweight paper.
- Provide one set per kid.
- Instruct kids to cut out the prayer cards and use a hole punch to punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.
- Give each kid a 1-inch binder ring to insert through the holes of the cards.
- Read through the card and encourage kids to keep their prayer cards at home to use a tool to help them when they pray.
- Kids can flip through the cards and use the prompts for what to pray about.

What You Say God hears us when we pray. God heard Hannah and answered her prayer by giving her a son. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. God might not answer our prayers right away or in the way we expect, but we can trust God because He is good and His plan for us is good. **BL: I trust Jesus and pray because no one and nothing is greater than Him."**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse Word Search Week 1 (1 per kid), pencils

What You Do:

- Display the memory verse poster.
- Lead kids in reading aloud together.
- Then distribute copies of the word search for kids to find words of the memory verse.
- As they finish, guide them to turn over their word search and write the memory verse on the back from memory.

What You Say " [Allow volunteers to recite the memory verse when they are ready from memory] The kingdom of God is not like other kingdoms of earthly kings. God's kingdom lasts forever, and He always keeps His promises. Say our big picture question and answer with me: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

"Lord, thank You for Your Word. WE praise You for Your faithfulness. You blessed Elkanah and Hannah with a son, and You used Samuel as part of Your plan. God, we pray these words that Hannah prayed to You: "There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no one besides You! And there is no rock like our God." 1 Sam 2:2 We love You. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone. **BL- I trust Jesus and pray because no one is greater than Him.**