

# 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.**

### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and small group leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

#### Find Your Match:

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Instruct kids to group together based on different characteristics or clothing.
- Groups may be based on hair color, shirt color, boys verses girls, food preferences such as favorite flavor of ice cream, or play preferences such as favorite games. Preschoolers may also line up by height- shortest to tallest.

**What You Say:** "You did a great job following directions and finding people who were similar or different than you. In our stories the next few weeks we will be looking at ways that God chose people to lead in many different ways. Let's listen today and see how God called Samuel."

#### Worship

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."

### Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kid's hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

#### Bible Story

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Place a book mark in 1 Samuel 1-3 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

**What You Say:** The Bible is God's Word, and all the stories in it are true! Today's Bible Story is found in the Old Testament Book of 1 Samuel. The Old Testament tells about the things that happened before Jesus lived on the earth.

#### PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

**Talk about the Bible 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.

### Learn the Big Picture Question

**What You Say:** **Is anything or anyone Greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.** Our great God gave Hannah a son. Our great God spoke to Hannah's son Samuel. Our great God used Samuel to tell what God is like. Our great God sent His Sone, Jesus, not just to tell us what God is like, but to show us what God is like.

### Practice the Memory Verse:

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 10:6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

**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!."

## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leaders.

### 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.
- **Pray-** “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.”

**What You Say:** Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during your small group session. Send home the coloring page and tell families, we are talking about how great our God is.