



UNIT 9 | SESSION 4

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1-3

KEY PASSAGE:

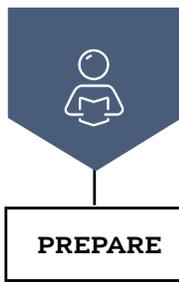
Romans 6:23

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Hannah trusted God and sent Samuel away from home to serve God with his whole life. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to be our Savior. Just as Samuel used God's words to tell people about God, Jesus—the Word who became flesh—perfectly shows us what God is like.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

When was the last time you prayed fervently to God? What did you need? Did He answer in a way you expected?

When Hannah wanted a baby, she cried out to God with great earnestness so much that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. Hannah had confidence that God heard her prayer. She understood that one of the evidences of the understanding and the belief that God hears and answers prayer is persistence in prayer.

Hannah prayed with a passion and bitterness of heart that looked to God at first and fixed her gaze upon the Lord only. She didn't even notice Eli watching her. She believed that God heard and God acted as a result of our small prayers. She prayed with passion because she believed God heard her.

But what if our prayers seem not to be heard? Hannah is a great example for us of what C. H. Spurgeon observed about prayer in his book *Illustrations and Meditations*: "Frequently the richest answers are not the speediest ... A prayer may be all the longer on its voyage because it is bringing us a heavier freight of blessing. Delayed answers are not only trials of faith, but they give us an opportunity of honoring God by our steadfast confidence in Him under apparent repulses."

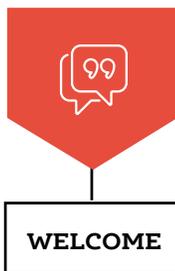
Finally, Hannah's persistence in prayer

showed that she understood she could not fix her situation but the all-powerful God who hears and acts could. The next year, Hannah came with a baby in her arms. A baby she named Samuel, which means "God heard." Samuel's life was a constant reminder to Hannah and all of Israel that God lives, hears, and acts.

As you prepare to serve kids through teaching, remember that even prayers that seem to be delayed are meant to strengthen our resolve to pray and to honor God with a confidence that can't be shaken. We serve a God who hears us, and because He hears us, no prayer is too small or too big that we can't bring Him.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Samuel: Israelite priest and prophet who was Israel's last judge



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What is the last thing you asked God to do for you? Did He provide in the way you asked or in a different way? Today, we’re going to learn about Hannah, who asked God to give her something very special. Let’s see if He provided in the way Hannah thought He would.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Pour Out Your Heart” on the activity page.

SAY “God tells us in Matthew 7:7 that God wants us to ask for the things we want. In 1 Peter 5:7, we learn that we can give all our cares to God because He cares for us. God wants us to trust Him with things that are important to us.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: MOTHER, MAY I?



Lead kids in playing a game of “Mother, May I?” Direct kids to stand shoulder to shoulder at one side of the room. Stand at the other side and invite kids to take turns asking permission to approach: “Mother, may I take [any number] steps?”

Respond by saying “Yes,” “No,” or “Not yet.” If you say “Not yet,” a player should silently count to 30 before taking the steps forward. Play until several kids reach you at the other side of the room.

SAY “That was fun. God always has answers to our prayers. Sometimes God’s answer is yes, sometimes His answer is no, and sometimes He says not yet. God knows what’s best for us and when it’s best for us.”

OPTION 2: WHOSE VOICE?

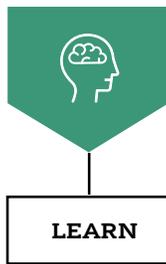
Direct the kids to sit in a circle with their eyes closed. Tap one player on her shoulder. This player should move quietly to the center of the circle and say, “Samuel, Samuel.” She may attempt to disguise her voice.

With eyes closed, kids will raise their hand to guess whose voice is speaking. Allow up to three kids to make a guess.

If a kid guesses correctly, reset the game and play again. If no one guesses correctly, the speaker will speak again. Continue playing as time allows.

SAY “It wasn’t always easy to guess who was talking. In our Bible story today, Samuel heard someone calling his name, but he didn’t realize who was speaking to him. Let’s read more to find out who was calling, ‘Samuel, Samuel.’”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1–3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Provided for Hannah.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD PROVIDED FOR HANNAH

“ In a land called Ephraim (EE fra ihm), a man named **Elkanah** (el KAY nuh) lived with his wife **Hannah**. **Hannah was sad** because she really wanted children, but she didn’t have any.

Every year, **Elkanah went to the tabernacle to make sacrifices to God and to worship Him**. **Hannah went with him**. She prayed: “**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** sat nearby and watched Hannah pray. He couldn’t hear her, but he **saw her lips moving**. **Eli thought something was wrong with Hannah**.

“**I’ve been pouring out my heart before the Lord,**” she explained.

So **Eli replied, “Go in peace. May God answer your prayers.”**

Hannah and Elkanah returned home, and God answered her prayers. After some time, **Hannah gave birth to a son**. She named the baby **Samuel**.

When Samuel was a little older, Hannah took him to Eli at the tabernacle. “God answered my prayers!” she said. **Hannah pledged Samuel to serve God**, and she worshiped God. Then Hannah went back home and left Samuel with Eli to serve God. **Every year, Hannah returned with a new robe for Samuel**. God gave Hannah many more children too.

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.

So Samuel went back to his place, and **God called, “Samuel, Samuel!”**

This time, Samuel spoke up, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” God told Samuel that He **was going to judge Eli’s family for their sin**. **Eli’s sons served as priests in the tabernacle, but they were sinning against God**.

The next day, **Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said, but he shared God’s message with Eli**. 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**

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use dramatic voice: As you tell the story, use a dramatic voice to convey some of the emotion Hannah must have felt as she pleaded with God for a son and later, when Samuel heard God’s voice.

Pause and ask questions: As you tell the story, pause to engage kids by asking questions like, “How would you feel if you heard God calling you in the night?”

the nation of Israel.

Christ Connection: Hannah trusted God and sent Samuel away from home to serve God with his whole life. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to be our Savior. Just as Samuel used God's words to tell people about God, Jesus—the Word who became flesh—perfectly shows us what God is like. ”

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Hannah wanted a child. The Bible says that she poured her heart out before the Lord. She wasn't shy to tell God what she wanted. Most of all, she wanted to honor God. Hannah was willing to dedicate her son to serve the Lord. When God answered Hannah's prayers, it couldn't have been easy for her to take Samuel to live in the temple. Even so, Hannah trusted God and did just as she had promised. Samuel grew up serving God because of Hannah's faithfulness to honor the Lord even when it was difficult. God had wonderful plans for Samuel to lead the Israelites away from sin.

You see, Eli's sons were supposed to be leading God's people to love and honor Him, but they were wicked, and their wickedness angered God. God used Hannah's son Samuel to deliver His message of judgment. Their sin deserved death, just as ours does. Hundreds of years later, God would use His own Son, Jesus, to deliver a message of mercy and peace. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Hannah trusted God and sent Samuel away from home to serve God with his whole life. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to be our Savior. Just as Samuel used God's words to tell people about God, Jesus—the Word who became flesh—perfectly shows us what God is like. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 9, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Does God answer all our prayers? How can you be sure He hears you?
2. How might God answer our prayers in unexpected ways?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Read 1 Timothy 4:12 aloud. You may choose to invite a kid to read it for the group. Challenge the kids to arrange themselves from youngest to oldest.

SAY “ Samuel was a young boy when God first started speaking to him with messages for God's people. God sometimes calls kids to do big things for Him. If you think you can't have much of an impact in the church or in sharing the gospel, think again! The Bible tells us that even when we're young, we can set an example for other people. ”

Pray and ask God to show the kids how they can be an example to those around them.