

# GOD HEARS HANNAH AND SAMUEL

**Bible Basis:** 1 Samuel 1:1–2:2, 21; 3:1–10

**Bible Verse:** “[Hannah] said, ‘The LORD has filled my heart with joy. He has made me strong.’”  
—1 Samuel 2:1, NIV

**Bible Point:** God answered Hannah’s prayer. God hears me pray, too.

**Resource:** *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 10: “God Hears Hannah and Samuel”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Have children sit on the floor with their eyes closed. Say, “**I want you to listen closely. If you hear my voice, raise your hand, and I’ll call on your name to answer.**”

Whisper, “**Who is here today?**” Let children respond.

Shout, “**What is my name?**” Let children respond.

Clap loudly while you softly whisper, “**Who can hear me?**” Let children respond.

Have the children open their eyes. Ask:

- **What was easiest for you to hear?**
- **What kinds of noises get in the way of hearing other people?**

Say, “**Today’s Bible story is about a woman and a boy. The woman talked to God, and he heard her. God talked to the boy, but the boy had to learn to listen and talk.**”

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 10, “God Hears Hannah and Samuel,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Practice the following verse with your class. When you see (\*) in the story, have children say the verse and do the actions with you.

**Use your mouth.** (*Cup hands around your mouth like a megaphone.*)

**Use your ears.** (*Cup hands around your ears to hear.*)

**Talk to God.** (*Make praying hands.*)

**God will hear.** (*Raise arms in the air in the shape of a V.*)

Hannah loved her husband. He loved her. But Hannah wanted a baby. What should Hannah do? (\*)

Hannah went to the temple. She told God that if he gave her a baby, she would give the child back to him. Her baby would be God's special helper. An important man named Eli was at the temple. Hannah told Eli that she was praying for a baby. Eli told her that God would give her a baby. Before long, Hannah had a baby boy and named him Samuel. When Samuel grew, she brought him back to the temple to be God's special worker. She gave Samuel back to God. That meant he would live and work at the temple. Eli said he would take care of Samuel. What did Eli tell Hannah that he would teach Samuel to do? (\*)

Samuel grew up in the temple. He learned many things. One night Samuel heard a voice calling his name. What should Samuel do? (\*)

Samuel hurried to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me."

"I didn't call you," Eli said. "Go back to bed." Samuel went back to bed.

Before long, Samuel heard a voice say, "Samuel!" What should Samuel do? (\*)

Samuel went to Eli again.

"Here I am," he said again. "You called me."

"I didn't call you," Eli said. "Go back to bed."

Samuel did. But still again, he heard someone say his name. What should Samuel do? (\*)

Samuel told Eli, "Here I am. You called me."

Eli figured out what was happening. What did Eli know? (\*)

Eli knew that God was the one calling Samuel's name. Eli told Samuel, "Go back to bed. If someone calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord. I'm listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed. He heard someone call his name. What should Samuel do? (\*)

Samuel did what Eli told him. When God called him, he said, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."

God heard Samuel and spoke many things to him. Samuel prayed to God many, many times throughout his life. God heard Hannah and Samuel. He can hear your prayers, too.

After the Bible story, ask:

- **What did Hannah want?** (*a baby*)
- **So what did she do?** (*She went to the temple and prayed.*)
- **How did God answer Hannah's prayer?** (*God gave Hannah a son, Samuel.*)

- **Where did Hannah take Samuel** (to the temple, to be God's special worker)
- **How did Samuel learn to talk to God?** (Eli told Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening.")

Say, "God answered Hannah's prayer. God hears me pray, and he hears you pray, too! Say with me, "God hears my prayers!" (Lead children to repeat.)

Say, "God hears our prayers. Let's pray like Hannah and listen like Samuel. What are some things you'd like to tell God?" (Allow children to answer. You may get humorous answers, but that is okay—God loves to hear from these little ones!)

Pray for the children and their requests.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

#### OPTION 1: Focus on Prayer

**Stuff you need:** a few bottles of bubbles and a few volunteers to blow them; a pair of mittens or socks for each child (Check dollar or discount stores or send home a note a week or two in advance, asking children to bring an extra pair of mittens or socks for a game.)

Have children put the mittens or socks on their hands. Have a few different volunteers stand in different areas of the room and blow bubbles. Have the children try to catch, and not pop, the bubbles. Regardless of the result, praise their efforts.

After you've played awhile, ask the following questions:

- **Did you catch a bubble?**
- **Was it easy or hard?**
- **It was hard, wasn't it? You really had to focus, didn't you? You really had to pay attention to what you were doing. But—it was also a lot of fun!**

Say, "The same is true for prayer. When you pray, you really need to focus and pay attention to what you are doing. A great way to do that is by closing your eyes. (Have children try it.) This keeps you from getting distracted by things around you. Another great way to focus on prayer is to fold your hands in your lap. (Have children try it.) That way you won't be tempted to fidget and play with something. Just as you had to focus and pay attention to catch a bubble, you need to focus and pay attention in order to talk to and listen to God. And prayer is also a lot of fun—it's wonderful to be able to talk to God!"

## OPTION 2: GOD HEARS MY PRAYERS

**Stuff you need:** 4 buckets and 4 beanbags for every 8–10 children, masking or painter's tape, volunteers to retrieve the beanbags

**Preparation:** Set up a beanbag toss; mark a throwing line with tape, and then set the four buckets one after the other, from closest to furthest away.

Have the children line up and play the game one at a time. They can move up and keep trying until they get all the beanbags into the buckets.

When everyone has had a turn, say, **"It's fun to toss beanbags, isn't it? Sometimes we get the beanbag in the bucket, and sometimes we don't! That's not true of God and prayer. It's not that sometimes he hears us and sometimes he doesn't. He hears our prayers every single time we pray! It's as if you're getting the beanbag in the bucket every single time! Let's say together, 'God always hears my prayers!'"** (Repeat that as a group several times—loudly, softly, standing, sitting, hopping, etc.)

## OPTION 3: SPEAK LORD

**Stuff you need:** Speak Lord Activity Sheet, crayons

Give a copy of the activity sheet to each child. Read the words on the sheet. Shout the words together. Pray the words together. Then have the children color the words and bring the sheet home to share the message with family.

## OPTION 4: SAMUEL TALKS TO GOD

**Stuff you need:** Samuel Talks to God Activity Sheet, crayons

Give a copy of the Samuel Talks to God Activity Sheet to each child. Talk about today's story as the children color the picture of Samuel.

## OPTION 5: PRAYER NECKLACE

**Stuff you need:** string, fishing wire, or yarn; macaroni (or similar) noodles (must have a hole for the yarn); scissors; "I Will Pray" medallions

**Preparation:** Create an "I Will Pray" medallion for each child. Cut 3-inch circles out of craft foam, and hole punch the tops twice, side by side, so the yarn can be threaded through the medallion and the medallion will face front. On each medallion, use permanent marker to write, "I Will Pray."

Have children string the noodles onto their yarn. When they are about halfway, put the medallion on the string, and then let them finish stringing noodles. Tie the necklaces so the noodles don't slide off. (Optional: If you use yarn, tape the ends to make it easier to thread the noodles.)

Say, **"Hang this prayer necklace on your bedroom doorknob or somewhere in your room to remind you to pray."**

## STEP 4: GOING HOME

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Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card* 10.

Say, **"The front of this card will remind you that God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her baby Samuel. Show your parents the back and tell them that God hears you when you pray, too."** Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.