

Hannah

1 Samuel 1:1-19

MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 1:10

“And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

“From Your Mouth To God’s Ear” template, card stock or construction paper, a 36” piece of string, glue and a paper clip.

Enough copies of the “Praying Hannah” template, crayons or markers, and brads.

A prayer list chart. You can use the one provided with the curriculum or create your own list using butcher paper.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

From Your Mouth to God’s Ear!

Glue the “God’s ear” to a piece of stiff paper (“God’s ear” template provided with curriculum), punch the hole and thread a 36” piece of string through the hole. Tie a paper clip on the end in front and knot the end that is in back.

Ask for some prayer requests from the kids (write them down for them if they cannot write yet). Holding up the ear with the string extended long in the front, have them stick the requests (maybe a few at a time) on the paper clip.

After they are on the paper clip, pull them up to the ear to show that **God hears our prayers.**

LESSON TIME!

Today we will learn that **God hears our prayers** and answers them according to His perfect will. We are now beginning the book of 1 Samuel. We will be learning about the great judge of Israel, whom the book is named after, Samuel. But in today's story we will be learning about Samuel's mother, Hannah.

1 SAMUEL 1:1-7

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.

And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

Our story opens up by introducing to us a man by the name of Elkanah. He was from the mountains of Ephraim and had two wives, one was named Hannah and the other named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. In those days having children was extremely important because this was how they would pass on their family name to the next generation and then that family would pass the name on to the next generation and so on and so on.

But to be childless was looked on as a curse, for if you had no sons there was no one to carry on the family name. This being the case, Elkanah knowing that his wife Hannah could not have children, probably took Peninnah as his wife so she could bear him sons to carry on his lineage. This was considered a disgrace to Hannah and she was very sad because of it.

Every year Elkanah and his family would go to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to God. Shiloh was where the house of the Lord was at during this time. It was about 20 miles northeast of Jerusalem. And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to her sons and daughters, but to Hannah he would give a double portion, because he loved her even though she had no children. This was a very kind thing to do for Hannah, but at the same time Peninnah would mock her and hurt her feelings because she had no children. This hurt Hannah very much, so much so that she wept and would not eat.

Now we as children of God are a light to the world and to one another. What that means is that we are supposed to shine Jesus to every one we come into contact with. And many times we come into contact with people who need God's love in their lives. Maybe someone at school does not have clothes as nice as ours or maybe

they are going through a hard time right now and they are hurting inside. Maybe your friends are not being nice to someone.

We all have the choice to either be kind to that person or we can make fun of them and hurt their feelings. We, as representatives of Jesus, must choose to be kind and loving to everybody we come in contact with.

We will see what Hannah does about her situation and how it is the right thing to do. **God hears our prayers.**

1 SAMUEL 1:8-11

Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Hannah was overwhelmed by her situation. She was so saddened because she couldn't have children that she could not see the other blessings in her life, like the wonderful husband that God had given her. Her whole perspective on life was wrong and it affected her life. She continually wept and did not eat anything.

So she arose and went into the tabernacle of the Lord and cried out to Him there. She poured out her soul to the Lord in prayer and asked God to give her a son. She also made a promise to the Lord. If God would grant her request she would dedicate the child to God, for God's service.

Hannah did what we should all do when we come up against a tough situation; she prayed and poured her heart out to God. God wants us to come to Him in every situation of our lives. Whether it is someone at school who is treating you unkindly, perhaps you have a problem with anger, or your relatives don't know Jesus yet. Whatever problem that you may have, God wants us to come to Him about it in prayer. **God hears our prayers.**

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you." The Lord not only hears our prayers to Him, but He also answers them according to His perfect will. So when we pray, God will answer either "yes," "no" or "wait." When we pray we must pray that the Lord's will be done, because God knows all things and He knows the perfect thing to do. So it might not be the answer we want to hear, but it is the answer we need for our lives, because the Lord loves us and wants the best for us. **God hears our prayers.**

Praying Hannah

Before class make enough copies of the "Praying Hannah" template (provided with your curriculum) as the number of children in your class. Have the children cut out the top portion of Hannah (located on the bottom 1/2 of the template), color all of her, then with a brad attach her top to her legs. Hannah can now bend up and down to show her kneeling in prayer.

As you are putting together this craft discuss prayer with the children. Ask them what they would do when they are sad about something. Maybe a few children can share about ways that God has answered prayer in their lives.

1 SAMUEL 1:12-18

And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

"Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Eli the priest of the tabernacle was there and was watching Hannah pray silently before the Lord. But Eli didn't know she was praying. He saw her lips moving but she was not making any noise, so he thought she may have been drunk and began to accuse her.

Hannah quickly explained that she was not drunk but sad and that she was pouring her heart out to God. Eli knew that God would do

what was best for her so he sent her away in peace. Hannah went her way and ate some food and her face was no longer sad.

Hannah did not have to worry or be saddened anymore because her request was in God's hands now and He would do what was best for her, even if that meant not having a son. But as we know she did have a son and his name was Samuel, one of the great men of God in the Bible. So when we go to the Lord with our prayers we don't have to worry any longer. We can rest in God's peace knowing that He will do what's best for us even if it means saying no or not right now, because God made each and every one of us and put a call on each of our lives. God knows us far better than anyone (Philippians 4:6,7; 1 John 5:14,15). **God hears our prayers.**

Prayer List for the Classroom

Use the chart provided with the curriculum or make your own prayer list for your class to pray for and watch for the Lord's answers. As an option you could get a large sheet of butcher paper and ask the children each week how the Lord has answered their prayers.

He always hears and He always answers but not always in our timing (which is usually "right now!") and not always the answer we desire.

Pray together as a class for the different needs indicated on the prayer list and watch what the Lord does.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for all His answered prayers in their lives. Encourage the children to "pray without ceasing." If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Praying Hannah



Template - From Your Mouth To God's Ear



GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS