

Samuel Is Born

1 Samuel 1:20-28

MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 1:27

“For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Prepare before class several small slips of paper with questions on them (see questions listed in activity below) and additional slips of paper with answers, keep them in two separate jars.

As many “birth announcements” as the number of children in your class, black or gold construction paper (squares can be pre-cut to be larger than the announcement to give the appearance of a frame), crayons or markers and glue.

A large sheet of paper and crayons or markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Questions and Answers

There are few things more discouraging to a child’s faith in God than to think that everyone else gets everything they pray for when they don’t. To show that God’s answer is always wise and fits our needs, play this silly “Q and A” game. Write various questions (make more than this) and then write the answers on separate slips of paper such as:

Questions:

- 1). What animal says “moo?”
- 2). What color is the grass?
- 3). What fruit is red?
- 4). What color are bananas?
- 5). How many ears do you have?
- 6). How many cats are in your Sunday School room?

- 7). Do you have an alligator in your home?
- 8). What is the answer to $2 + 1$?

Answers:

- 1). Cow
- 2). Green
- 3). Apple or Pomegranate
- 4). Yellow
- 5). Two
- 6). None
- 7). No
- 8). Three

Put all questions and answers on separate pieces of paper; put questions in one jar and answers in another jar. Let one child pick and read a question and another child pick an answer. The answers in this game will not always fit the questions, but in contrast God's answers always fit exactly. In today's lesson we are going to look at how God answered the prayer of a godly woman by the name of Hannah.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever felt really sad about something or a situation in your life? Maybe it even seemed hopeless, that there was no way that your pain or suffering could be removed? Hopefully you haven't had to go through a trial like that in your life yet, but at some time you may have to face a trial like that. Who will you turn to when it happens and what will you do?

In today's lesson we will see how Hannah was blessed by God when she prayed to Him through her time of sorrow and hopelessness. We will also see how that she honored her promise that she made to the Lord. **God wants us to keep our promises.** She wanted God involved in her life, because she knew that He is faithful to hear and answer her prayers. God is actively involved in our lives

and Hannah was blessed because of it. Then she responded to God's faithfulness by keeping her promises.

1 SAMUEL 1:20

So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

Hannah had been unable to have children and in the Old Testament times a barren woman (a woman who couldn't have children) was thought to be a failure. Her barrenness would be an embarrassment for her husband Elkanah. She had good reason to be full of sorrow and despair. But Hannah knew she could take her concerns to the Lord in prayer because He is faithful to hear us when we call upon Him. She left her problems in God's hands.

We can learn a very important truth about Hannah's example of going to God in prayer and leaving our concerns in His hands. God doesn't want us to bear a heavy load which is too much for us to handle. We can have peace in our hearts. The Lord wants to replace the fear and anxiety over problems we have with trust in Him. Fear may naturally come when we have problems because we are human, but God is faithful to answer our prayers.

God heard Hannah's prayer and He faithfully answered her by allowing her to conceive a son. In response to God's faithfulness, she named him Samuel which means "heard of God." She had asked God for a son and He heard her prayer.

Does God answer our prayers the way we want them to be answered? Not all the time. Sometimes the answer may be no. But when we pray according His will and plan then we know He hears us and we have what we asked for. God is faithful to hear us and because He has a plan for us, knowing what's best for us, He will always give us His best in answer to our prayers. As we pray for His

will to be done, just as Jesus taught us (Matthew 6:10), we can take comfort in knowing that God's perfect purpose will be accomplished in our life, just like Hannah's.

1 SAMUEL 1:21-23

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

Again we see the love and devotion that Elkanah had for the Lord. It was a commandment for the people of Israel to bring a sacrifice to the house of the Lord (tabernacle) every year (Deuteronomy 12:11). Elkanah was faithful to not only perform his duty, but fulfilled his obligation out of love and worship to the Lord. It wasn't just a religious duty. Elkanah rose up early in the morning to fellowship with God because walking with the Lord was a way of life for him (v. 19). How we need to begin our day, every day with the Lord!

Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow to the Lord (verse 3). But this time Hannah would stay home to take care of baby Samuel until she weaned him.

Hannah was committed to fulfill her promise before the Lord. Samuel would need his mother and possibly he stayed with her until he was about three years old. God was faithful to Hannah and she knew that God had a special plan for her son. She would take

care of him as only she could do until the time was right for Samuel to be given to the Lord for service. **God wants us to keep our promises.**

Elkanah and Hannah didn't live just for the here and now, but lived for eternity. They were heavenly minded. They knew that God was actively involved in their life, working out His purposes in them. Likewise, we need to live each day the same way. We could just do our religious duties, but God wants us to live each day with love and devotion for Him. Everything we do can be an expression of worship to our Lord.

Birth Announcement

Use the template provided with your curriculum. Copy and cut apart one birth announcement for each child to color. After coloring the announcement take a sheet of gold or black construction paper and cut a square slightly larger than the birth announcement. Glue the announcement to the construction paper to give the appearance of a frame.

As the children are making their announcements explain to them that the Lord answered Hannah's prayer and then Hannah was faithful and kept her promise to the Lord. The Lord honored that promise and made Samuel to become a great man of God.

1 SAMUEL 1:24-25

Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.

Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

When the time was right, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord. To follow through with her promise she gave up what she wanted most, her son, and presented him to Eli to serve God in the tabernacle. God was faithful and Hannah wanted to be faithful in her commitment to Him. In dedicating her son to God, she expressed her faith by giving her entire life and future to Him. **God wants us to keep our promises.**

Hannah's heart is revealed in obedience to God. Her faith was living and active and God blessed her for it. The believer who is abiding in Christ through worship, meditation on His word, prayer and service to Him, will have their prayers answered (John 15:7). God blesses those who live in obedience, giving us a joyful experience in our relationship with Him.

1 SAMUEL 1:26-28

And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD.

"For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

"Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Hannah reminds Eli that she was the woman who prayed for a child a few years ago and now stands before him with God's blessing. Here was a living testimony of God's faithfulness to prayer. Hannah witnessed God's mercy and grace upon her life and with joy she would follow through with her commitment to give back what God had given her. **God wants us to keep our promises.**

As Christians we must realize that God has given us a new life through His mercy and grace. In response to this, we must give

ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice unto Him (Romans 12:1). Like Hannah, we must realize that we are God's possession, everything we get is from Him. Our life is God's and He wants us to offer ourselves, laying aside our own desires to follow Him.

Hannah would not forget her son. She would visit him regularly and each year she brought him a linen robe just like Eli's (2:19). In later years, Samuel lived in Ramah (7:17), to be in the hometown of his parents (1:19-20). Also God greatly blessed Hannah in giving five more children (2:21). God is so awesome.

Hannah could experience the joy of watching her son serve the Lord as a great prophet of God. Even at an early age, Samuel worshipped God in the temple revealing a heart that loved the Lord. And because of his devotion, the Lord would use him in a mighty way, leading His people by revealing God's word and His ways. **God wants us to keep our promises.**

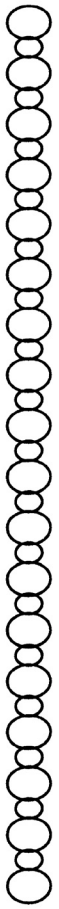
Promise Chart

As a class project have the children make a "promise chart" to hang on the bulletin board. Use a large piece of paper (butcher paper is good). Allow the children to decorate the chart and make enough lines for each child in your class.

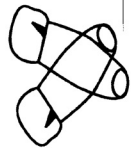
Have the children tell about a promise they made to the Lord. Write down the promise on the chart to help the children to remember to keep their promises. Over the next few weeks review the chart to encourage the children to keep their promises.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to keep all of their promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BABY!



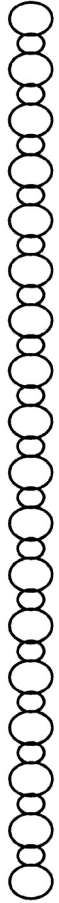
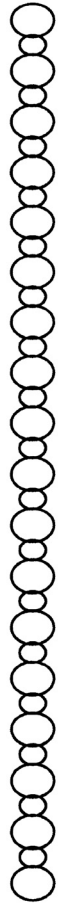
SAMUEL

NAME

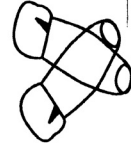


ELKANAH AND HANNAH

PARENTS



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BABY!



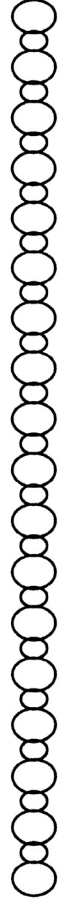
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NAME

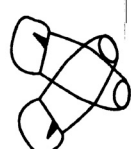


ELKANAH AND HANNAH

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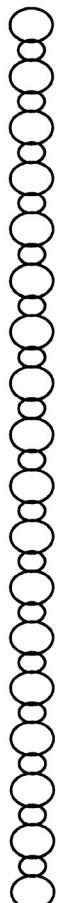
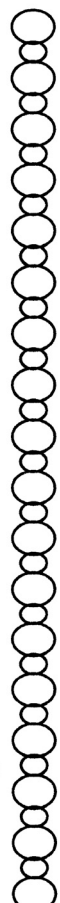
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NAME

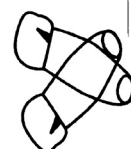


ELKANAH AND HANNAH

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW BABY!



SAMUEL

NAME



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