Hannah’s Prayer

Bible Story
1 Samuel 1; 2:18-19

Teacher Challenge
Samuel’s birth was God’s answer to Hannah’s years of intense prayer. God saw that the desire of Hannah’s heart to have a baby had come to a point of surrender: She promised God to give her son back to Him. Her desire for God’s purposes had overtaken her desire to have a baby she could keep. (And of course, God honored her gift of Samuel by giving her many more children!)

- How often are your prayers driven by a desire to fulfill God’s purposes?
- How can you converse with God more often throughout your day?

Prayer may seem difficult to teach, but help your children see that talking to God is like giving Him hugs and kisses and saying “I love You.” These are things most children have experienced. They can communicate love to God! Then help them understand that God loves us and is listening to us. He shows us His love by giving us His very best answers to our prayers!

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center: Dress Up!

Collect
Bible, yarn, Bible-times costume; optional—3-foot (.9-m) fabric length, scissors, man’s tie.

Prepare
Place a yarn line at one end of the playing area.
Place Bible-times costume at the other end. (Optional: To make costume: Fold length of fabric in half and cut a slit along the center of the fold to make a neck opening. Man’s tie serves as belt.) (Note: If you have a large class, provide one costume for each group of five to six children.)

Do
1. Children line up behind the costume. The first child puts on the costume, walks quickly to the yarn line on the opposite side of the playing area and then returns to starting point.
2. After first child takes off the costume, the second child puts on the costume and repeats actions. Continue until every child has a turn.

Talk About
- Our Bible story today is about a woman named Hannah. Hannah loved God. Hannah asked God for a baby. God answered her prayer. Hannah had a baby boy named Samuel. Hannah made Samuel a coat every year.
- Let’s pretend we’re Samuel and we’re putting on our new coat.
- Show open Bible. The Bible says, “I love the Lord.” When we talk to God, we can tell Him we love Him. Briefly pray with children, expressing love to God.

For Younger Children
Use a child’s coat or bathrobe. Help children put the coat on and off.

For Older Children
Children say verse before taking off the costume.
Art Center: People at Church

Collect
Bible, crayons or markers, scissors, Lesson 5 Church Door Pattern from Discovering God’s Love CD-ROM.

Prepare
Make copies of Church Door Pattern from CD-ROM for yourself and each child. Cut on solid lines and fold on dotted lines. Complete your page as described below.

Do
1. Show your completed page and briefly talk about the Bible story.
2. Give each child a page. Children open doors of church and draw the people they came to church with today, or draw their family.

Talk About
\[\text{In our Bible story today, Hannah and Elkanah went to talk to God at a special place called the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was like a church. Hannah asked God for a baby. Where are some places you talk to God?}\]
\[\text{When we come to our church, we can talk to God and ask for His help, too. Let’s make pictures of people at our church.}\]
\[\text{Who are the people who came to church with you today? The Bible says, “I love the Lord.” We come to church to show our love for God.}\]

For Younger Children
Children draw happy faces to represent people at church.

For Older Children
Let children cut pages.
Play to Learn

Block Center: Favorite Rooms

Collect
Bible, yarn, scissors, blocks.

Prepare
Cut yarn into various lengths from approximately 8 inches (20.5-cm) to 2 feet (61-cm) long.

Do
1. Children use blocks and lengths of yarn to outline rooms of a house. Children may use yarn to tie blocks together, to make lines between blocks or to create different-shaped areas.
2. As children build with blocks, talk about the times they can pray to God at home.

Talk About
► The Bible says, “I love the Lord.” We show love for God by talking to Him and asking Him for help. We can talk to God anywhere! Let’s build some rooms in a house.
► I see a bed in this room. That reminds me I can pray to God at night before I go to sleep. What could you talk to God about at night?
► Is this the kitchen? Let’s build a table. We can talk to God and thank Him for our food.
► Pray briefly, Thank You, God, that we can talk to You anywhere.

For Younger Children
Outline room shapes with masking-tape. Children place blocks on masking-tape line. (Note: Remove tape immediately after activity.)

For Older Children
Invite children to dictate prayers. Write their prayers on index cards.
Play to Learn

Science Center: Growing-Up Graph

Collect
Bible, length of butcher paper, tape, marker, paper circles, crayons or markers.

Prepare
Tape the butcher paper horizontally on the wall at the approximate height of the children in your class.

Do
1. Children line up against the wall and mark their height on the butcher paper. Write each child’s name at his or mark.
2. Child draws a face on a paper circle, and then tapes his or her face at his or her mark.

Talk About

In our Bible story today, a woman name Hannah asked God to give her a baby boy. God did! Hannah named the baby Samuel. As Samuel grew up, Hannah made a new coat for him to wear every year.

You’re growing bigger each year, too, just like Samuel. God makes us to grow. The Bible says, “I love the Lord.” The word “Lord” is another name for God. I love God because of the wonderful way He made our bodies. Let’s thank God for our bodies and tell God how much we love Him.

For Younger Children
Children use crayons to draw happy faces directly onto butcher paper.

For Older Children
Teacher measures children and writes height measurement at each child’s mark.

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Lesson 5

God's Word
“I love the Lord.” Psalm 116:1

God’s Word and Me
I talk to God to show my love for Him and to ask for His help.

Listen to Learn
1 Samuel 1; 2:18-19

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 10 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player.

Greet Each Other
Lead children in this cheer:

Stand up! (clap, clap)
Be proud! (clap, clap)
Say your name (clap, clap)
Out loud! (clap, clap)

Invite a child to stand up and say his or her name after the cheer.

My name is Michael! (clap, clap)

Repeat the cheer until each child has had a turn to say his or her name.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 10 pictures.

Where is a special place you like to go? What do you do there? In today’s story, we’ll find out about a special place where Bible-times people went to show their love for God.

Hannah and her husband, Elkanah (ehl-KAY-nuh), loved each other and God very much. But Hannah and Elkanah had no children. Hannah felt very sad.

Hannah and Elkanah went to a special place to worship God. The special place was called the Tabernacle. Hannah prayed to God. “Dear God, please give me a baby boy. When he is old enough, I will bring him to the Tabernacle to be Your helper.”

Eli lived at the Tabernacle. He prayed to God and taught others about God. “I pray God gives you what you ask,” Eli told Hannah. Hannah and Elkanah went home.

After many, many days, a baby boy was born to Hannah. Hannah named the baby Samuel. Every day Samuel grew taller and stronger. Hannah took good care of little Samuel. She cooked good food for him to eat. She made clothes for him to wear. And best of all, Hannah taught little Samuel about God.

Finally, the day came when Samuel was big enough to go to the Tabernacle. Hannah, Elkanah and Samuel went to the Tabernacle. Samuel stayed there with Eli to learn to be God’s helper, just as his mother Hannah had promised.

Every year Samuel’s mother made a special new coat for him. And every year she had to make a bigger and bigger coat! Do you know why? Because Samuel GREW, just like you do. And as he grew a little taller and a little stronger, Samuel also grew to love God!
Talk About the Story
What did Hannah ask God at the Tabernacle? (To give her a baby boy.) Hannah showed her love for God by praying to Him. She asked God for help when she wanted a baby. We can talk to God, too. We can show our love for God and ask for His help. What are some of the places where you talk to God?

Sing to God
What can our hands do? Let’s sing this song to find out! Lead children in singing “A Little Bit More” (track 3 on CD). What does this song say our hands can do? (Help others.) When we talk to God, we can ask for His help to help others! God will always hear us when we talk to Him.

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Psalm 116:1, say verse aloud. When we come to church, we can tell God how much we love Him. Lead children in repeating the verse two or three times. Then add the word “at” and a time of day (“I love the Lord at bedtime.”). Children echo the phrase after you. Repeat several times, using different times of the day, days of the week or seasons of the year.

Pray to God
Lead children in prayer. Dear God, we love You. Thank You for helping us when we ask. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Praise to God
I love God because He helps us grow. Let’s pretend we are measuring ourselves. Demonstrate using your hands to measure your head. Say these words or sing the words to the tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush,” using actions words suggest.

   We measure our hand and we measure our nose.

   We measure our feet and we measure our toes.

   We measure our head and our ears and our chin,

And now let’s all smile and we’ll measure our grin.

Option: Provide one or two rhythm instruments for children to use while singing “A Little Bit More.” Children trade instruments before each repetition of the song.
**Talk to Learn**

**Bible Story Activity Pages Center**

**Collect**
A copy of Activity 10 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

**Do**
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

**Preschool Puzzle Center**

**Collect**
Copies of Puzzles 9 and 10 (p. 25 and p. 27 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

**Do**
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

**Read-Aloud Story Center**

**Collect**
A copy of Story Picture 5 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, string, glue.

**Do**
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.