



HANNAH AND SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 1-3

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

In a country called Ephraim, a man named Elkanah lived with his wife Hannah. Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. Hannah wanted to have a family.

Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to make sacrifices to God and to worship Him. Hannah went with him.

Hannah prayed to God, "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 was sitting near the doorpost of the tabernacle. Eli watched Hannah pray. He couldn't hear her, but he saw her lips moving. Eli thought there was something wrong with Hannah.

Hannah explained, "I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord."



Eli replied, “Go in peace. May God answer your prayers.” Hannah and Elkanah returned home, and God did answer her prayers. After some time, Hannah gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel.

When Samuel was no longer a baby, Hannah took him to Eli at the tabernacle. “God answered my prayers!” she said. Hannah pledged Samuel to serve God, and she worshiped God.

Hannah returned home and left Samuel with Eli to serve God. Every year, Hannah returned with a new robe for Samuel, and God gave Hannah many more children.

Eli was getting old, and his sons served as priests in the tabernacle. Eli heard that his sons were sinning against God. Eli asked his sons why they were sinning, but they did not listen to him. Samuel, on the other hand, grew older and found favor with God and with men.

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.

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

“Speak, for Your servant is listening,” Samuel replied. God told Samuel that He was going to judge Eli’s family for their sin. The next day, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God said, so Samuel did.

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 the nation of Israel.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Samuel used God’s words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God’s plan and showed what God is like.



Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Explain that the Book of 1 Samuel begins with Israel's history from the time of the judges. Point out that 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament. It is the fourth book of Old Testament History.

Read aloud 1 Samuel 3:10. Then ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. How does God speak to us today?

Remind your kids that God spoke directly to Samuel and to many others in the Bible. Guide them to recognize that the Bible is the Word of God. God tells us everything we need to know about Him through His Word.

2. What message do we have to share with the world?

Lead your kids to review the gospel. Emphasize the bad news of sin and the good news of the Savior. Point out that God calls all believers to share the good news about Jesus with the world.

3. Have you ever been afraid to share the gospel? Why or why not?

Allow your kids to share their experiences. Point out that Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. We might feel afraid to share God's message about Jesus when we fear other people. Assure kids that God is with us. Everyone needs a chance to know and love God.



SAY:

The first story is about Hannah, who prayed and asked God for a child. God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son, Samuel. Hannah dedicated Samuel to God, and she took him to Eli the priest so he could learn to serve God. One night, God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids use the table of contents to find 1 Samuel 1–3. Remind the kids that we have been studying books in the Old Testament History division. Ask which books come before and after 1 Samuel.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Hannah want very badly?

A child, a son; 1 Sam. 1:6-11

2. What did Hannah do after Samuel was born?

Dedicated him to the Lord, 1 Sam. 1:26-28



3. What did Samuel say after he knew it was God calling him?

“Speak, for your servant is listening”; 1 Sam. 3:10

4. Will God always give us what we ask for in prayer?

Guide your kids to see that God loves to give us good gifts. Help them understand that when we ask for things in prayer, we can trust that God will give us what is best for us. That means that sometimes God will give us what we want, but sometimes He will not. When God does not give us something, it is because that thing is not for His glory and our good.

5. How can we hear from God today?

Help your kids see that the primary way God speaks to us today is through His Word. Remind the kids that we can hear from God through the Holy Spirit or even through other Christians whom God may use, but if we ever think God is telling us something that goes against the Bible, that message is not from God.

6. Can you think of times you have been afraid to share God’s message with others?

Guide your kids to discuss their fears or insecurities honestly. Share times in your life that you knew what God’s Word said about something but were afraid to tell others. Talk about ways to overcome fear and speak the truth in a way that is loving.



SAY:

God called Hannah’s son to share God’s plan. We can share God’s plan, too, by sharing the gospel.