

K-5th Grade
Hannah and Samuel
Parent Devo & Bible Study

Session Title: Hannah and Samuel

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1–3

Story Point: God called Hannah’s son to share God’s plan.

Key Passage: Jeremiah 10:6

Big Picture Question: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Parent Devotional

Leader Bible Study

The time of the judges was turbulent for God’s people. The Israelites had conquered the promised land of Canaan, but after Joshua’s death, they fell into a cycle of sin. This was the culture in which Hannah and her husband Elkanah lived. They were ordinary Israelites—Elkanah, a devoted worshiper of the Lord; and Hannah, a woman who wanted nothing more than to be a mother. But the Lord had closed her womb. (1 Sam. 1:5)

One year, when Elkanah went to make sacrifices and worship God, Hannah went too. She could no longer hide her grief over being childless. She prayed so fervently to the Lord—asking for a child and vowing to dedicate him to God—that Eli the priest rebuked her because he thought she was drunk.

God answered Hannah’s prayers, and she named her son Samuel, which means “requested from God.” When Samuel was old enough to wean, Hannah presented him to Eli. First Samuel 2 records Hannah’s triumphant prayer. Hannah glorified God for His sovereignty; then she went home with her husband, leaving Samuel to serve God under the leadership of Eli.

Hannah visited Samuel each year and brought him a robe. Samuel faithfully served God. On the other hand, Eli’s sons—though they were priests—had no regard for God. They did not listen to Eli, so God rejected Eli’s family. This hard news came to Eli through the boy Samuel.

Review 1 Samuel 3. Note how Samuel responded to God’s call: “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” Today, help kids identify Samuel’s role as God’s messenger. God called Hannah’s son to share God’s plan. Lead them to connect Samuel to Jesus. 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.

1 Samuel 1–3

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.

Memory Verse:

Jeremiah 10:6

"There is none like you, O Lord;
you are great, and your name is great in might."