

Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 42

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Level E—Bible Bits: Dig 'n' Discover (#16-20)/

Topic Treasures—Sorrow and Joy

Hannah's Prayer and Promise

At first, Hannah was sad because she didn't have any children like other women did.

Then Hannah prayed for a child—a little baby boy. She told God that she would like her child to love and follow Him all his life.

So God gave her a son, just as she had prayed, and she was very happy!

Hannah named her baby Samuel. He was a special child.—An answer to Hannah's prayers!

Hannah loved him so much, and she prayed that he would follow God all his life and do what was best.

She had waited so long to have a child, and it made her very glad that God had answered her prayer and gave her a baby.



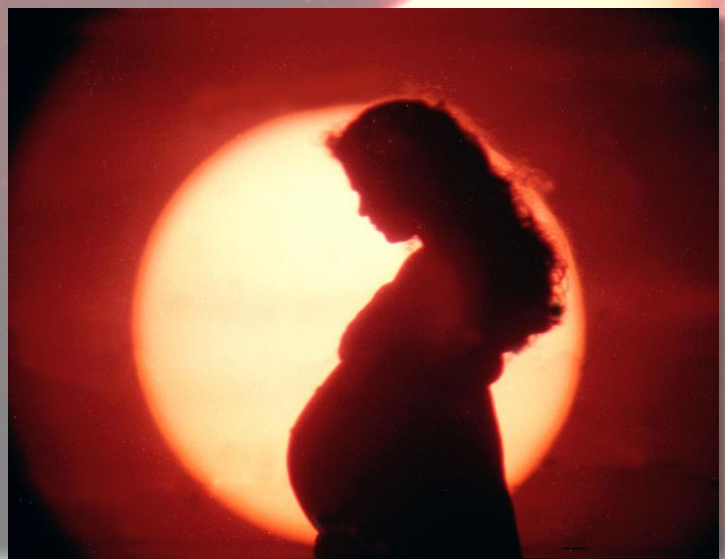
Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Hannah was a woman who loved God very much and took time to talk with Him in prayer. She knew God answered prayer even if some prayers took a long time to be answered.

As soon as you pray, God hears what you ask for, but it's not always the best time or way for your request to be answered right then and there. Sometimes you have to wait for awhile, and then it works out for the best in the end.

Hannah had wished for a child for a long time and often talked to God about it. However, it wasn't the right time for her special prayed-for boy to be given. --Until one day, when she and her husband and other relatives were visiting a place called Shiloh.

They took a trip there each year to pray and to praise and



worship God. They would enjoy a feast and talk with friends and relatives who were there too.

At the feast Hannah was feeling very sad as she saw others with their families and their children, but she had none. It made her cry and pray with her whole heart for God to give her a son.

She promised then, at that feast, that if God would let her have a child she would let him serve God all his life. Priest Eli saw Hannah praying, and asked her about it.

She then explained to Eli how she was feeling, and he encouraged her and said that he knew God would answer her prayer. Hannah felt happy inside! She had faith that her prayer would be answered soon.

Hannah then did have a child! -A special little baby boy. She named him Samuel, and she loved him very much. He was a special boy who would have a special job when he grew up.

Activity

*Is there something that you have wanted for a long time—something that seems good for you and others? Maybe today you can make a "prayer list" and write down, or draw a picture, of some things that you'd like Jesus to do for you. When you pray in faith, Jesus loves to answer! He'll give you just what you need, if it's what is best for you and others.

Hannah's Prayer and Promise



Parties, celebrations, festivals, feasts, trips to visit relatives, barbecues and get-togethers can be fun! But happy times are only happy if there is love among those taking part in the activity.

If someone is making things real hard for you and causing you to feel sad and bad it can ruin the whole experience. That's what a woman named Hannah felt like.

"Oh dear! It's almost the time of the feast again," Hannah's heart would say, for each year she and other relations would travel and meet together in Shiloh. The Priest Eli and his sons were living there. Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, would go to that place to pray and worship. They'd eat a big meal, see friends, and then travel home again. This happened once a year.

It was a time many people enjoyed—but not Hannah, because of someone's unkind words to her every year at the feast and time of worship in Shiloh. Even after being married for a long time, Hannah had no children, and this was very hard for her.

This alone was enough to sadden her. But to add to her sorrow a lady called Peninnah, who was also the wife of Elkanah, had lots of children. This woman, instead of showing kindness and sympathy to Hannah, instead would say discouraging words to her, making her feel very bad and sad.

One time it was just too much for Hannah and she went to get alone to pray. Priest Eli was sitting down and watching what was going on around him, and saw Hannah kneel in fervent prayer. She was telling God all that was on her heart. She knew He was the only one that could help her. There

was not a single person on Earth that could help her suddenly be able to have children, but God could, so she prayed for that miracle.

Hannah prayed a very special prayer. Sometimes when you really want something, you are willing to give up something in order to get it, right? Hannah knew that if it was God's will for her to have a child, and if she was doing the things that pleased Him, then it would become a reality. She prayed an "extreme prayer" and promised God that she would do something very special and unusual—if He would give her a little boy.

"If you give me a little boy, I promise to let him serve You, Lord, all his life," Hannah promised. She desperately wanted to do God's will and wanted to be worthy of His gift of a child. Those were like the magic words and decisions of her heart.

God was waiting for a mother and father to give a special child to—but they would have to be parents that would let their child learn God's ways most of all. Not people that would just try to have their child only do whatever they thought the child should do, or teach the child whatever skills or trades they wanted their child to grow up and do.

But who would be willing to let their child learn God's ways? Samson's parents were willing, and raised their child according to what God wanted, and he was used of God to be a good judge. Hannah was a woman who was also willing. She wanted a child, and promised that if she had a son, he would be dedicated to God.



Similar to what Samson's mother was told to do about not cutting Samson's hair, Hannah said she would not cut her child's hair either, as a promise that he was God's special child.

Hannah had been praying with all her heart, but her words weren't heard out loud, only her lips moved. Priest Eli saw her praying but didn't know what she was praying for. At first he started to reprimand her, as it looked like she was acting rather odd.

Since it was the time when people were drinking wine for the feast, he wrongly concluded that she'd had too much to drink. However, when he talked with her, she explained that she was just very sad and was praying. Eli then encouraged her saying that God had heard her prayer and would answer.

Sometimes after a real good time of praying you can feel that peace and faith in your heart and be just as happy as if you had gotten what you were praying for, right then. Then to have Eli also encourage her, and say that he knew God would grant her request, made her smile and go happily on her way—even though she didn't yet have a child. She had faith in her heart after praying and making things right with God.

It wasn't long before Hannah and Elkanah received the special child—the prayed for child that she named Samuel, meaning "God has heard." His name reminded people that he was an answer to prayer.



Activity

*Do you know of someone with a baby? Or do you have a new baby brother or sister? Take some time to pray for the baby to grow up wise, happy, strong in faith, and with a good knowledge of God's Word.

- Pray that they are taught God's Words and choose to follow in His way.
- Pray that eventually they will be able to encourage others to do what is right and will help lead others to know Jesus.
- Pray for their parents and caregivers to teach them the right things that will help them to be the person God wants them to be.

(Prayer game idea: Roll a die, and if it lands on 1 or 2, then pray for the first point on this list. If it lands on 3 or 4, then pray for the next point. If the die lands on 5 or 6, then pray for the last point on this prayer list. Roll and pray, until all requests have been prayed for.)

Let's Talk About It


*How do you react when you are given something special, and you see others that don't yet have the same thing?

*Can you think of some thoughtful and encouraging things you could say, or kind ways you can act with those that don't have the privileges you have?

*What did Hannah do when someone was causing her distress and making her feel sad? Did she react with anger, using her energy and emotions to do or say something unkind to someone who wasn't acting kindly? What was the good result of her taking her heartaches and sorrows to Jesus in prayer, instead?

Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Connect and Communicate



* Write the name of someone on the whiteboard or chalk board, then choose who will pray for them. The one who prays, asks the Lord to do things for that person—things that begin with the letters of the person's name. For example, when praying for someone called Jean, the prayer might include things like (J) "Jesus to speak to her" and to have good (e) "exercise" and (a) "absolutely no accidents" and a (n) "nice day," and so forth.

Study Fun

Discover: The formula for victory: How to go from great sorrow to feeling peace and joy—even when you don't have what you want.

Underline: Where the text in this story shows God's planning, interaction, and intervention—both the good things and the difficult things that were part of God's plan.

Define: Vow; petition; provoke.

1 Samuel

1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

1:2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.

1:4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the Lord had shut up her womb.

1:6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb.

1:7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

1:8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord.

1:10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.

1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.



1:12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth.

1:13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

1:14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

1:15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

1:16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

1:17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

1:18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and the Lord remembered her.

1:20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.



Activity

*Play an active quiz game. One person stands in front of the other players, who are all also standing, and asks questions about the story that are to be answered by a yes or no (or true/false). However, rather than answering only, all players indicate "yes" by standing up, and "no" by squatting down.

Fountain of Faith

Psalms 16:1

Preserve me, O God:
for in thee do I put my
trust.

Psalms 16:11a

Thou wilt shew me the
path of life: in thy
presence is fulness of
joy.



Dig 'n' Discover (16-20)

Prayer

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

*Each one can write a word or phrase, or more, of something to be prayed for. All pieces of paper are folded or rolled up and put into a jar. The jar can be passed around, and one-by-one people take out one of the prayer request papers and pray for it.

- 16.) How can we get clean on the inside? (1 John 1:9, John 15:3)
- 17.) Was Elijah the only one who prayed and then fire came down from heaven on to the altar? (2 Chronicles 7:1-3)
- 18.) Which famous man was not only a prophet and leader, but also a songwriter and singer? (Deuteronomy 31:22)
- 19.) Did Jesus ever eat butter and honey? (Isaiah 7:14)
- 20.) When God meets a foreigner or "stranger" in a new country, how does he treat them? How should we? (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

Activity

*Look up the verses in your Bible to find the answers!



Topic Treasures

—Sorrow and Joy

Study Fun

Discover: Some ways that King David expressed his joy.

Underline: What he did to bring on joy, when he was sad and any tips that these verses reveal.

Define: Mourning; sackcloth; disquieted.

Psalm 30:11,12 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever.

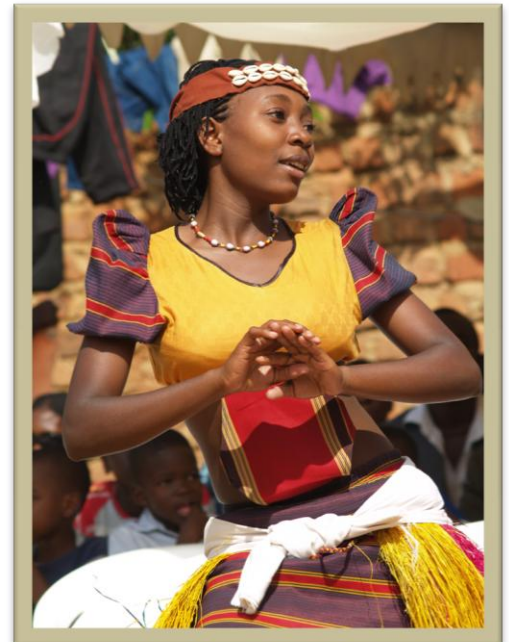
Psalm 126:5,6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 6:6 I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

Psalm 149:5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy.

Psalm 27:6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.



Psalm 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psalm 42:2,3,8 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalm 42:11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.



Daily Diary

*Think back on some happy memories, or on things that you are glad are a constant part of your life—things that you would be very sad if they weren't part of your life or were taken away. Write down these joyful events, or life-aspects that you are blessed to have experienced or to enjoy daily.