



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Lookin' for a Leader  
Summer Year 3, Lesson 2

# Hannah Gives Samuel to the Lord

**Take Home Point:** \*Our lives belong to God.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** 1 Samuel 1-2:11, 2:18-21--- Hannah and Samuel

**Key Verse:** 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20, "You don't belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Samuel and Hannah.
- What it means to be "dedicated" to the Lord.
- Jesus paid the price so we might be owned by God.
- When we give our lives to God we will receive blessings.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Confident to release their lives to Jesus.
- Convicted about things we do that do not show we belong to God.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify their lives as God's property.
- Receive Jesus as the one who paid the price for our sins.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids share their experiences of owning and taking care of a pet to help understand what it means to be owned by God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no supplies are needed</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  10  11  12  14	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Carnival Game:</b> "Lookin' for a Leader"  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy: Property of God"  <b>Bible Event:</b> "A Visit from Hannah"  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy: Property of God" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>carnival booth</li> <li>Gordy</li> <li>balls or a Nerf gun</li> <li>five cans or milk jugs; one can is labeled "Samuel: Property of God"</li> <li>small stuffed animal for a prize with a tag that reads "My name is ____ and I belong to ____."</li> <li>Jesus dollar /gospel money (available through Dock Haley's Gospel Magic at <a href="http://www.gospelmagic.com">www.gospelmagic.com</a>) or a ticket with a cross on it</li> <li>costume for Hannah</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	In the early church, the fish was used as a symbol and a way for people to tell others they were the property of God. Children will write on identification tags with fish symbols ways they are grateful God sent his Son Jesus to die for them. The tags can be attached to something that will remind them to act dedicated to the Lord.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>short story, "Property of Jason, or Is It?" (See pages 7-9.)</li> <li>pens or markers</li> <li>"Property of God" label on card stock for each child (see appendix pg. 14-15)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Today the children experience what it is like to own and take care of a pet and what it means to be owned by God. For those children who do not have pets, have them tell about a pet they have always wanted. Finally, the Warm-Up activity introduces the concept that we want to be dedicated to God and his ownership over us.*

To begin today's lesson say:

**Today, we are going to play a guessing game. Think about a favorite pet that you have or once had. That pet might be a dog, a cat, a fish, a turtle, or even a snake. If you don't have a pet, you can tell us about a pet you wish you had. Don't tell anyone what your pet is. You get to act out things your pet does or things you do to take care of your pet. Then we will guess what your pet is.**

If you have more than eight in your group, divide into smaller groups of three. Have a child act out something that his pet does. After the group has guessed the right answer, the child can tell more about his pet and why he likes it. That child should also talk about what he does to take care of his pet and why he loves his pet. You can ask leading questions like the following:

**What do you feed your pet? How do you help your pet from getting too hot or too cold? What does your pet do for you?**

After the children are finished, ask the following:

**Who owns you?** *(The children might give answers like my parents, my family, or God.)*

**Today we will discover that God is the one who owns us. Because he owns us, he takes care of us. How does God take care of us?** *(He gives us food, family, love, and Jesus.)*

**If God owns us, what do you think he wants us to do for him? How do we show God we belong to him?** *(We show him our love, give him our worship, and trust in Jesus.)* **These can be ways we dedicate our lives to God.**

**In large group today, we will learn *\*our lives belong to God.* We will hear about a young boy named Samuel. Samuel knew he belonged to God. When Samuel was a small boy, he knew that God had chosen him to be a prophet. Samuel dedicated his life to God.**

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Carnival Game:** “Lookin’ for a Leader” – In this week’s carnival game, a child will receive a prize that already has her name on it. The child must pay to play the game and is given a Jesus dollar or ticket. God’s gift of eternal life was given as a free gift to all who will receive it.

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy: Property of God” – Gordy learns from the Bible event about Hannah and Samuel and what it means to dedicate our lives to God.

**Bible Event:** “A Visit from Hannah” – Hannah presents a monologue of the Bible event found in 1 Samuel 1-2:11, 2:18-21.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 1-2:11, 2:18-21 and review some of the key events of the story.

**What did Hannah do when she could not have children?** (1 Samuel 1:9-10. *She prayed at the tabernacle.*)

**What did Eli the priest think when he saw Hannah praying silently and moving her lips?** (1 Samuel 1:13-14. *He thought she was drunk.*)

**How did the Lord answer Hannah’s prayers?** (1 Samuel 1:20. *She had a baby.*)

**What did Hannah name the baby? What does that name mean?** (1 Samuel 1: 20. *Samuel, which means “God hears.”*)

**How did Hannah respond to God blessing her with a baby?** (1 Samuel 1:24-28. She dedicated Samuel to serve the Lord full time at the tabernacle. She took Samuel there to live when he was about three years old. (It may be difficult for kids to understand why a parent would want to give up a child. Help the kids see how overwhelmed Hannah was with gratitude. She also visited Samuel on a regular basis.))

**How did God bless Hannah after that?** (1 Samuel 2:21. She had five more children.)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Why do you think Hannah gave up Samuel to work in the temple?** (The children will give you a number of responses. The question opens up discussion to be able to talk about Hannah's feelings and how hard it would be to let her only child go.)

**Does God own people today?** (Yes. God made people and loves them so much that he wants what is best for them.)

**What did God do to show us he loves us so much that he wanted us to belong to him?** (God sent his Son Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Our lives belong to God because of all he has done for us.)

**How does God treat us like Hannah when we dedicate our lives to him?** (God blesses us like he blessed Hannah.)

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Samuel was dedicated to the Lord. That means his mother was so thankful to God for giving her a son, she let her son grow up serving the Lord in the temple. To be "dedicated" means "to serve God with your whole heart." Do you think you could be dedicated to God and not serve him in a church building every day like Samuel did? (Yes, we can serve God anywhere we are. When we serve God it means we are remembering that God owns us and we want to live for him.)

#### Application Activity:

Pass out the Property of God tag with fish symbol.

The fish was a symbol the early church used to identify people as Christians. The fish was a mark of being owned by Jesus. It was a way for people to tell others that they were property of God in a time when Christians were punished if others found out.

**Do you know God owns you? Are you thankful that God made you? Are you thankful that God gave his Son Jesus for you? If you know that God owns you, write your name on the card.**

**How can you show God how grateful you are that he sent his Son to die for you? Write some of those ways on the back of your tag.**

Continue to help the children discuss things they can do to show they belong to God and that they are dedicated to him. Have kids write these things on the back of the fish identification tags.

Read the attached short story, "Property of Jason, Or Is It?" After the story, challenge the children to take home their fish identification tags and attach them to something that will remind them to act dedicated to the Lord. The tag should be a reminder that they belong to God. The identification labels can be attached with safety pins or taped to something in their bedrooms, in their houses, or on their backpacks. It can even be fun to safety pin their tags to their clothes as they leave Kingdom Quest.

Practice saying the key verse, 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20, with the kids.

***"You don't belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body."***

**Today we learned that *\*Our lives belong to God.***

Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer, letting each child pray about what it is they have written on their identification tags.

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## **“Property of Jason, or Is It?”**

Jason was excited. Summer had finally come and he was leaving for camp. He loved camp because he made friends easily and was well liked. It was also fun living in a cabin with a bunch of other boys. It kind of made Jason feel like he was on his own.

Jason’s mother was helping him do everything necessary to be prepared because she would not be with him for the whole week. “Label every shirt, every pair of pants, and even label underwear and socks,” she said. “Otherwise, your clothes will get mixed up with other boys’.”

“Ah, Mom. Do I have to?” asked Jason.

“I’ll make it easy for you,” she answered. “I have labels that say, ‘Property of \_\_\_\_.’ You just have to write your name in the blank.”

Soon Jason’s clothes had small labels in them. “No one can get their clothes mixed up with mine now,” Jason said as he proudly put his suitcase in the van.

Later in the day, Jason arrived at camp. Camp was just as much fun as he remembered it. There were new friends, lots of games, and interesting Bible studies. In his cabin were several boys he remembered from last year. There were some new boys, too, who were really cool.

One of the new boys, Caleb, did not seem to fit in so well. He was quiet and kept to himself. He was not very good at the games, either. Jason would not have noticed Caleb much, except that he spotted him one morning at breakfast. Caleb was wearing Jacob’s favorite Dallas Cowboys shirt. Caleb must have stolen his shirt! Jason was mad and thought, “How dare he get into my stuff and take my shirt!”

Jason marched over to Caleb and said, “Give it back!” Caleb acted like he did not know what Jason was talking about. “That’s my shirt you’re wearing!” Jason said loudly enough for everyone to hear. “You’re a thief. Now give it back!”

Caleb’s face turned red. His lip quivered like he was going to cry. He became very quiet. Jason said, “If you wouldn’t steal, it wouldn’t be so embarrassing. Come on, let’s go back to the cabin.”

When they got to the cabin, Jason checked his suitcase. Sure enough, his Dallas Cowboys shirt was missing. Caleb still denied taking it and said the shirt he was wearing was his own.

“I’ll prove to you that is my shirt,” said Jason. “There is a tag in the back. Take the shirt off and read it. It says, ‘Property of Jason.’”

Caleb took the shirt off and read the label. “Yes, there’s a tag here. It says ‘Property of...’ but it doesn’t say Jason,” Caleb replied. “It says ‘Property of Caleb.’”

“What?” exclaimed Jason. “Did you erase my name and write yours?”

“No,” Caleb answered. “My mom made me put these labels on my clothes before camp.”

“So did mine,” said Jason, “and that’s my shirt!”

“But it has my name in it,” said Caleb. “Look again. Maybe your shirt is in your suitcase or somewhere else.”

“Well, I’ve already looked in my suitcase,” Jason said. “It wouldn’t be in my dirty clothes, but I’ll show you anyway.” With that, he emptied his dirty clothes bag. There on top, was his Dallas Cowboys shirt. “Oh, no! Here it is.”

“And there’s your name tag,” said Caleb. “It’s just like mine except it says, ‘Property of Jason.’ At least now we won’t get our shirts mixed up, but I don’t care anyway. This camp isn’t all that much fun.” With that, Caleb left the cabin.

Jason paused for a moment. He thought about how Caleb must feel and how he embarrassed him at breakfast. Jason began putting his clothes away when he saw his Bible. He picked it up and noticed his bookmark that read, “Jason, Property of God.” That reminded him that he belonged to God. How he acted showed people who he belonged to. He opened the Bible to a verse that he had underlined, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20: *“You don’t belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body.”*

“Wow,” he thought, “I belong to God. Jesus, I need your forgiveness. God, I want to dedicate myself to you since you own me. Show me what to do.”

Jason left the cabin to return to breakfast. He had changed into his Dallas Cowboys shirt and was carrying his Bible. He had something important to do.

When Jason got to the dining hall, everyone had finished their breakfasts except Caleb, who was there all alone. Jason took his tray and sat next to him.

“Caleb,” he said, “I’m sorry about accusing you. That was mean, and I was wrong.”

“It’s okay,” said Caleb. “It doesn’t matter.”

“Maybe it does. I’m God’s property and, because of that, I shouldn’t be mean to you.”

Caleb looked at Jason with a puzzled face. “God’s property? What do you mean you are God’s property?”

“Well,” replied Jason, “if you’re finished with breakfast, I’ll walk with you to morning devotions. We can hang out together. I’ll tell you what I think it means to be the property of God. It’s pretty cool. You can be the property of God, too. Let’s talk about it.”



# Large Group Presentation

## “Lookin’ for a Leader”

### Carnival Game

*The current series, “Lookin’ For a Leader,” will use the theme of carnival games. Each week a new carnival game will be presented in which participants are invited to play. The large group leader will be a carnival booth attendant running the game.*

*Building the set for this can be simple, but the more detail and imagination given to it, the more entertaining it can be. A booth with a counter behind which the player stands would be necessary. Against the wall, various games or targets will be played. From week to week these games change. Within the games, the learning point will be revealed.*

*The carnival game is a good opportunity to use Gordy the puppet. He can be stationed somewhere within the booth as an assistant. Gordy can ask questions that set up the Bible event. If Gordy is not used, perhaps a live player could adapt the script so the setup dialog is presented.*

*Today’s carnival booth event involves throwing balls or using a Nerf gun to knock down milk jugs or cans that have been stacked. The object of the game is not necessarily to knock down all of the cans. Instead, the child is challenged to knock down the can with a mystery marking. The back or bottom of this should be labeled “Leader: Samuel.” Place the can on the top tier so that it is almost certain to fall.*

*A second prop in this carnival game is a small stuffed animal prize. The stuffed animal should have an identification tag reading, “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I belong to \_\_\_\_\_.” The toy’s name and a child’s full name should be filled in secretly before the game. It will be up to the large group leader to find a creative way to pick that child to play the game. The child will be surprised when she wins a prize that already has an ownership tag with her name on it. What may seem like a random selection can be staged ahead of time. You might ask a shepherd to choose someone from his group.*

*An additional prop needed is a Jesus dollar or a ticket with a cross on it. The child cannot play at the carnival booth unless she pays. Since the child will not have the means to pay, the large group leader will have to give her a Jesus dollar or ticket to play. The learning point from this is that only through the free gift of Jesus can we be owned by God.*

The large group leader introduces the new series, “Lookin’ for a Leader,” and talks about how God chose leaders in the Bible but is still looking for leaders today. Tell how these next few weeks will use carnival games to emphasize the Bible themes.

**Mr. King:** *(To the volunteer.) To win the prize for this game, you must knock down the “mystery can.”* (Hands the child the ball or Nerf

gun.) **But wait! You must pay before you can play.** (Pauses and waits for the child's reaction, then hands her the Jesus dollar or ticket.) **Jesus has paid the price for you!**

(After the child has knocked down the cans, pick up the mystery can and read the label.) **“Leader: Samuel.” I wonder what that means?**

Someone brings the volunteer her prize. Note the ownership tag on the prize. Then ask the volunteer to return to her seat.

## **Gordy: Property of God**

### **Puppet Presentation**

**Gordy:** Hey, wait a minute, Mr. King! That prize belonged to her and she didn't even know it. It already said “Property of *(child's name)*.” I bet she was surprised.

**Mr. King:** **I think she was, Gordy. God has a prize for all of us like that.**

**Gordy:** What's that?

**Mr. King:** **God's surprise is that we belong to him and some of us don't even know it or remember it.**

**Gordy:** Now wait a minute. I don't see any identification tag saying, “Property of God” on me.

**Mr. King:** **How about this?** *(Takes an identification tag that reads “Property of God” and attaches it to Gordy.)*

**Gordy:** Wow! You mean I'm God's property?

**Mr. King:** **You sure are!**

**Gordy:** Does that mean God is going to make me do stuff?

**Mr. King:** **No, God does not force us to do anything. He loves us and helps us want to do the things he would like us to do. Because we are God's property does not mean God forces us to be good.**

**Gordy:** But I don't understand how I ended up belonging to God.

**Mr. King:** **Well, who made you?**

**Gordy:** God.

**Mr. King:** That is one reason why you belong to God. But there is even a more important reason.

**Gordy:** What's that?

**Mr. King:** God paid for you. He bought you with a great price—his Son, Jesus. Jesus gave his life to die on the cross for your sins. If you trust Jesus as your Savior, it means you belong to God.

**Gordy:** If I'm God's property, does that mean God can do with me whatever he wants?

**Mr. King:** Yes, but God is not going to force you to love him or other people. He is just going to remind you that you belong to him and you can dedicate yourself to him.

**Gordy:** How do I do that?

**Mr. King:** Today's Bible event is about Hannah and Samuel. See if you can learn from these Bible characters what it means to dedicate your life to the Lord.

## **A Visit from Hannah**

### **Bible Event**

Hello, my name is Hannah. Have you heard of me? My story is written in the Bible, where I am known as the mother of a fine young boy named Samuel. Samuel grew to serve in mighty ways.

So, have you heard of me and how I dedicated Samuel to the Lord? No? Then let me tell you.

My husband's name was Elkanah. Elkanah loved me very much but, as was the custom in our day, he had another wife as well. Her name was Peninnah, and she was very bitter towards me, and I was sad. You see, Peninnah had several children and I had none. It seemed that the Lord would not bless me with children. For a woman in my day, to not have a child was almost disgraceful. I was so unhappy and sad.

Though Elkanah loved me and honored me, I was still sad. Peninnah took every opportunity to remind me that she had children and I did not.

Elkanah and I loved the Lord. Once a year we went to take our offering and worship at Shiloh. I would look forward to these events,

because there, in front of the tabernacle, I felt close to God. I remembered how he had been so faithful to our people and heard our cries of deliverance. He had delivered us from slavery in Egypt and brought us through the wilderness. He had given us a new and wonderful land. I knew the Lord would hear my prayers.

I bowed down before the Lord and opened my heart to him. I told him of my disappointment in not having a child. I told the Lord that if he would only give me a son, I would give my son back to him to serve him the rest of his life. I would dedicate my son to the Lord's service.

I prayed so fervently—not out loud—but in my heart. My lips were moving but there was no sound. Then I heard the voice of the priest. Eli was his name. He told me, “Woman, be gone with you! This is not a place for drunkenness.”

“What?” I said. “I am not drunk or filled with wine. I am praying before the Lord. I am so distressed. I have told the Lord my trouble.”

“Oh,” said Eli the priest, “then go in peace. May the Lord give you what you have asked.”

I felt a peace over my heart. Somehow I knew the Lord had answered my prayer. My heart skipped as Elkanah and I returned home.

Before another year had passed, God gave me and Elkanah a baby boy. I knew what I should call him. His name would mean “God hears.” His name is Samuel.

When Samuel was three years old (just old enough to help in the tabernacle), I packed his belongings in a neat bundle, took Samuel to Shiloh and brought him to Eli the priest. I reminded him of the time I came to the tabernacle to pray.

I said, “I prayed for this child. Now that the Lord has answered my prayer, I have brought Samuel to dedicate him to the Lord. As long as he lives, may he belong to the Lord and serve him. I shall visit him, but he belongs not to me. He belongs to the Lord.

Eli knew that God's blessing was on the boy and upon me. He promised to take wonderful care of Samuel and to teach him to serve God. I could visit Samuel and know that he would grow up happy in his service to God.

Each year I came to visit Samuel. I would bring him a new coat, and I would be surprised at how much taller he had grown. When I went back home I knew my home was different because God had

answered my prayer in other ways. The Lord gave me five more children as a special blessing of his goodness.

So why are you interested in my story today? Because you, too, are like my son, Samuel. No, you have not grown up serving God in a tabernacle or church. But you can be dedicated to the Lord to serve him right where you are. You, like my son Samuel, can know that your life does not belong to you or even to your parents. *\*Our lives belong to God.*

## **Gordy: Property of God**

### Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: So, do I have to live in a temple to dedicate myself to God?

**Mr. King:** When you dedicate yourself to God it means you are saying to him, “I want to live as I belong to you.” It is just like saying, “I’m yours.”

Gordy: Can I dedicate myself to God even if I work in a carnival booth?

**Mr. King:** Even if you work in a carnival booth.

Gordy: Even when I have to work with a goofy partner?

**Mr. King:** Yes, even if you have to work with a goofy partner.

Gordy: You have to worry about working with a *great* partner! Others of us have to worry about working with a goofy one! ‘Bye, boys and girls! ‘Bye, goofy partner.

**Mr. King:** Not so fast, Gordy. Lead us in prayer before you go.

Gordy: But what do you want me to say?

**Mr. King:** How about asking God to help us remember that our lives belong to him? It even says that in 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20, “*You don’t belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body.*” Pray about that.

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you that our lives belong to you. I guess we don’t even belong to ourselves and you bought us for a price—your Son Jesus. Thank you. Now help us learn that so we can give glory back to you by doing whatever you want. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

# Samuel: Leader

Property  
of  
God

My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
And I belong to  
\_\_\_\_\_.



# **Property of God**



# **Property of God**