



Date: _____
Series: Children of the Bible
Summer Year 1, Lesson 6

Hannah Prays for a Baby

Take Home Point: *God hears our prayers.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: 1 Samuel 1 & 2

We will help children know:

- Prayer is talking to God.
- Hannah believed God would answer her prayers for a son—and he did.
- God hears their prayers.




We will help children feel:

- Hopeful when praying to God.
- Thankful that God hears our prayers.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a crunchy snack that our ears can hear.
- Make ear decorations.
- Play a game called *Listening Ears*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the learning of today's Take Home Point: ***God hears our prayers.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy puppet • Pink pony
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pretzels, any type • napkins, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Appendix A, regular paper • paper punch • tape • yarn cut into 9" pieces, two per child • crayons or markers <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Judy Learns About Prayer

Supplies:

- Judy puppet
- Pink pony

Presenter: Hi, boys and girls. Let's call for Judy!

Kids call for Judy. **Judy... Judy... Judy.** Judy comes out with her hands folded for prayer.

Presenter: Hi, Judy.

Judy: Hi. Can you tell I am ready for church today? I have my hands folded.

Presenter: What does that mean, Judy?

Judy: It means I'm praying.

Presenter: How do you pray, Judy?

Judy: Well, you put your hands together like this.

Presenter: What else?

Judy: Then you just hold them there.

Presenter: But do you do anything else?

Judy: No, you just put your hands together.

Presenter: Judy, that is a way we can show we are praying. But praying is more than putting your hands together.

Judy: What is it?

Presenter: It is when you are talking to God.

Judy: God? Where is he?

Presenter: God is right here with us. He hears us even if we can't see him. He hears us when we talk to him.

Judy: What do we want to tell him?

Presenter: We want to tell him we love him and we can thank him for all that he gives us.

Judy: Can I thank him for my pink pony?

Presenter: Sure.

Judy: Thank you, God, for my pink pony. I love her very much.

Presenter: Did you know we can also tell God when we are sad or when we have something special we need?

Judy: Like what?

Presenter: Today we will read from the Bible about a lady named Hannah. She believed in God, prayed to God and God heard her prayers.

Judy: Did she pray for a pink pony?

Presenter: No, she prayed for a baby.

Judy: WOW!

Presenter: She was very sad, because she was getting older and she never had any children. She wanted a baby so much.

Judy: Did God give her one?

Presenter: Yes, he did. His name was Samuel. He grew up to be very special. God heard Hannah's prayer and her promise, and she let her son Samuel serve God in a special way all of his life.

Judy: Does God hear our prayers today?

Presenter: Of course, he does. You can tell him anything. You can thank him and you can even ask him to help you. Remember **God hears our prayers*. Boys and girls, repeat after me. **God hears our prayers. God hears our prayers.*

Very good. Judy, will you help me teach the kids our new song?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**PRAY to G-od.
PRAY to G-od.
GOD hears PRAYER.
GOD hears PRAYER.
HE will listen TO us.
HE will listen TO us.
PRAY to GOD.
PRAY to GOD.**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You hear our prayers. You hear our prayers.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: children's picture Bible

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read from a children's picture Bible about Hannah praying for a baby.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Hannah prays to God.

- A long time ago, there was a woman named Hannah who was married to a man named Elkanah. Hannah believed in God. Let's point to heaven.
- Hannah prayed to God. Let's fold our hands.
- She knew God would hear her prayers. Let's put our hand behind our ear and see if we can hear her prayers.
- Hannah did not have any children but wanted children more than anything. Let's pretend we are holding and rocking a baby.
- Because she did not have a baby, she was sad. Show me your sad face.
- One day she was at the Lord's temple or church. She cried and cried and cried while she was praying. Let's rub our eyes and pretend to cry.

Eli tells Hannah her prayers are answered.

- Hannah was so sad. When she was crying she was also praying. Let's fold our hands and pretend to pray.
- She asked God to give her a baby. She believed God heard her prayers. She told God that if she had a son, she would let him serve God all his life.

- The priest Eli saw how sad Hannah was. Let's pretend to be Eli the priest. These are words he told Hannah. Repeat them after me. "Go in peace." "Go in peace."
- "God hears your prayers." "God hears your prayers."
- "God will answer you." "God will answer you."
- Hannah felt better right away. She knew God heard her prayers. She went home and later, Hannah did have a baby. Pretend to hold the baby.
- She was so happy. Let's clap for Hannah.
- She named the baby Samuel.

Eli teaches Samuel.

- When Samuel grew older, Hannah took him to the temple or church. Let's pretend to walk to the temple.
- She told the priest Eli that God heard her prayers and gave her a baby. She had promised that Samuel would serve God all of his life.
- Samuel lived in the temple with Eli and learned how to serve God. Let's hold our hands upward and out, pretending that we are helping God.

God hears our prayers.

- We can remember that Hannah believed in God. Let's touch our hearts.
- She prayed to God. Let's fold our hands.
- God heard her prayers. Let's put our hands around our ears.
- You can do the same. Repeat after me. Believe God. Believe God. Let's touch our hearts.
- Pray to him. Pray to him. Let's fold our hands.
- Remember *God hears our prayers. God hears our prayers. Let's put our hand behind our ears.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

You hear our prayers. You hear our prayers.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

PRAY to G-od.
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GOD hears PRAYER.
GOD hears PRAYER.
HE will listen TO us.
HE will listen TO us.
PRAY to GOD.
PRAY to GOD.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God hears our prayers. God hears our prayers.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: pretzels; napkins cups and water

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Boys and girls, today we learned that prayer is talking to God. Hannah prayed to God for a baby. God heard her prayer and gave her baby Samuel. Today we are going to eat a crunchy snack that we can hear when we eat it. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You hear our prayers. You hear our prayers.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Option: some pretzel designs will easily look like an ear when one half is bitten off. This is another option for the teaching point as you talk about how God listens to our prayers.

Pass out a napkin and cup of water.

What do you have on your body that lets you hear things? That's right, **ears**. As I give you these pretzels, I want you to listen to how much noise they make when you eat them. Just like our ears hear things, God hears our prayers. Eat your snack now and enjoy the noisy crunch.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *God hears our prayers. God hears our prayers.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

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Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *copies of Appendix A, two pairs of hands per child*
- *tape*
- *paper punch*
- *yarn cut into 9" pieces, two per child*
- *crayons or washable markers*
- *stickers optional*

Before class, cut out praying hands. It is ok to leave a block of white space around them for easier cutting. Punch a hole in the hands near the wrist.

Boys and girls, today we have been hearing how God hears our prayers. What helps us hear? That's right, our ears help us hear. Can you point to your ears? Today we are going to make praying hands and hang them from our ears to remind us that God hears our prayers.

I am going to give you two cut outs of praying hands. You will have one for each ear. I want you to decorate them. Then I will tie a string on them so you can hang them on your ears. That will remind you that when you fold your hands and pray to God, God hears your prayer. Tape the string in a loop to the back of the hands.

Some children may be reluctant to put them on their ears. Don't force the issue—have them put them on their arms, instead.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *God hears our prayers. God hears our prayers.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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GOD hears PRAYER.
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HE will listen TO us.
HE will listen TO us.
PRAY to GOD.
PRAY to GOD.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You hear our prayers. You hear our prayers.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: none

Boys and girls today we have been learning how God hears our prayers. We are going to play a game called *Listening Ears*. You will need to listen with your ears to what I tell you.

1. Listening ears, hear me say jump up and down.
2. Listening ears, hear me say show me a frown.
3. Listening ears, hear me say meow like a cat.
4. Listening ears, hear me say on your tummy, pat, pat, pat.
5. Listening ears, hear me say pull on your ear.
6. Listening ears, hear me say give me a cheer—YEA!!!
7. Listening ears, hear me say turn right around.
8. Listening ears, hear me say sit right down.
9. Listening ears, hear me say growl like a bear.
10. Listening ears, hear me say God hears our prayers.

I like the way you did a good job of listening to what I said. Even if we can't see God, we know that we talk to him in our prayers; we know he hears our prayers. He answers us and does what is best for us. Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *God hears our prayers. God hears our prayers.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You hear our prayers. You hear our prayers.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***God hears our prayers.**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You hear our prayers. You hear our prayers.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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