

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

17

HANNAH FINALLY HAS A BABY

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

 *Mission*[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



HANNAH FINALLY HAS A BABY

Memory Verse:

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.
Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Hannah was

#2 - Discover what faith led Hannah to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11



HANNAH FINALLY HAS A BABY

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our heroine: Hannah

Her Heroic Feat: Makes a Promise to God and Keeps It

Making a promise to God and keeping it may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

The Bible tells us about a man from Ramah who had two wives. And as you can probably imagine, he also had problems. The man's name was Elkanah and his wives were named Hannah and Peninnah. "Peninnah had children, but Hannah didn't." (1 Samuel 1:2b NIV) Because having children was such an important part of being a wife, you may be able to imagine how Hannah felt.

The Bible also tells us that Elkanah was faithful to go and worship God, the Lord who rules over all, and sacrifice to Him. He did this faithfully every year and he took his entire family with him to a place called Shiloh. When the time came to offer sacrifices, Elkanah would give a portion of his sacrifice to Peninnah and each child. He would give double to Hannah because he loved her and she couldn't have children.

Year after year, Peninnah made Hannah miserable. She would tease her over and over again about not having children. "Each time, Hannah would be reduced to tears and would not even eat." (1 Samuel 1:7b NLT) Elkanah didn't completely understand Hannah's sadness. He thought his love should be enough for her, but Hannah desperately wanted a child.

Because Hannah wanted a child so much, she went into the Lord's house and was completely honest before God. Hannah was brokenhearted and she wept, but she also cried out to the Lord. "And she made this vow: 'O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut.'" (1 Samuel 1:11 NLT) Hannah prayed silently, but moved her lips while she was praying. The priest, Eli, watched Hannah as she prayed. He thought she was drunk and confronted her when she was finished praying. Hannah told the priest that she wasn't drunk. She told Eli how discouraged she was and that she had been telling the Lord all of her troubles. Then "Eli answered, 'Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you have asked Him for.'" (1 Samuel 1:17 NIV)

Hannah left the house of the Lord. She felt like eating and she wasn't sad anymore. Early the next morning, Elkanah and his family went to worship the Lord and then returned home to Ramah.

"Later the LORD blessed Elkanah and Hannah with a son. She named him Samuel because she had asked the LORD for him." (1 Samuel 1:19b-20 CEV) Hannah stayed at home with Samuel until he no longer needed his mother's milk. Elkanah and the rest of the family would go to Shiloh to worship God, but Hannah didn't go. "When the boy didn't need her to nurse him anymore, she took him with her to Shiloh. She took him there even though he was still very young. She brought him to the Lord's house." (1 Samuel 1:24a NIV) She also took an offering to God. Elkanah and Hannah took Samuel to Eli, the priest. Hannah reminded Eli who she was. Hannah told Eli that this child was what she had been praying for that day. She also told him that she was keeping her promise to God; she was giving back to God the child who had been an answer to her prayers. She said, "'So now I'm giving him to the Lord. As long as he lives he'll be given to the Lord.' And all of them worshiped the Lord there." (1 Samuel 1:28 NIV) Hannah gave thanks to God for His goodness. Elkanah and Hannah returned home to Ramah, but Samuel stayed with Eli and served the Lord there in Shiloh.

So what do you think about how heroic it may or may not be to make a promise to God and keep it? Do you think it was easy for Hannah to take Samuel to the house of the Lord and leave him there? Easy or not, Hannah kept her promise, giving back to God what she had asked Him for. You see, Hannah asked God for something and made a promise to Him if He fulfilled that promise. Many people do that today, as well. When we face hard times, maybe sickness or financial problems, we beg God for help, even making promises about what we will do if God gives us what we want. Those promises aren't always kept, but Hannah's was. Hannah kept her promise to God!

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Hannah made a promise to God and kept it. Hannah asked God for a child. When God answered her prayer, she gave His gift, Samuel, right back to Him to serve the Lord in the temple. Then, Hannah gave thanks to God.

How often do you ask or even beg God for something? When you receive it, or even if you don't receive it, do you tell God "thank you?" Have you ever thought of offering that thing that you received back to God? We usually like to hold our "things" with a tight fist. If God can be trusted to give, can't He also be trusted to maintain and care for what He has given?



NEXT WEEK
Samuel

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our heroine: Hannah

Her Heroic Feat: Makes a Promise to God and Keeps It

Making a promise to God and keeping it may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

The Bible tells us about a man from Ramah. The man's name was Elkanah. Elkanah was married to a lady named Hannah. Hannah didn't have any children, but she wanted one.

Hannah's husband, Elkanah, was faithful to worship God. He went year after year to the house of the Lord in a city named Shiloh. Even while there, Hannah was so upset about not having a child that she cried and wouldn't even eat. Elkanah didn't completely understand Hannah's sadness. He thought his love should be enough for her, but Hannah really wanted a child.

Because Hannah wanted a child so much, she went into the Lord's house and prayed to God. She asked God to give her a child and she promised God that she would give her child back to God. When she was finished praying, Eli, the priest, told her to, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you have asked Him for." (1 Samuel 1:17 NIV)

Hannah left the house of the Lord. She felt like eating and she wasn't sad anymore. She didn't have a child yet, but she had left her trouble with God. "Later the LORD blessed Elkanah and Hannah with a son. She named him Samuel because she had asked the LORD for him." (1 Samuel 1:19b-20 CEV) Hannah stayed at home with Samuel until he no longer needed his mother's milk. "When the boy didn't need her to nurse him anymore, she took him with her to Shiloh. She took him there even though he was still very young. She brought him to the Lord's house." (1 Samuel 1:24a NIV) Elkanah and Hannah took Samuel to Eli, the priest. Hannah reminded Eli who she was. Hannah told Eli that this child was what she had been praying for that day. She also told him that she was keeping her promise to God; she was giving back to God the child who had been an answer to her prayers. She said, "So now I'm giving him to the Lord. As long as he lives he'll be given to the Lord." And all of them worshiped the Lord there." (1 Samuel 1:28 NIV) Hannah gave thanks to God for His goodness. Elkanah and Hannah returned home to Ramah, but Samuel stayed with Eli and served there Lord there in Shiloh.

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Bring a baby doll to class. Gently pass the baby to music. When the music stops, the person holding the baby must recite the memory verse.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord," "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" (by Kim Hill), "Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty," "Oh Magnify the Lord (I Will Call Upon the Lord)," "We Bow Down," "Great is the Lord," "Shout to the Lord" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Play the telephone game. Choose a phrase that consists of eight words or more. Pass the phrase from person to person by whispering in their ear. When the last person tells what they heard, reveal the original phrase. Talk about God hearing our prayers and understanding them completely.
- For more training: Read 1 Samuel 1:6-18. Did any of Hannah's circumstances change? What made Hannah eat again and no longer be sad? (Putting her trust in the Lord.) Now, go over the memory verse, discussing it in light of Hannah's trust.
- **For more training:** Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11. Discuss what you learn about God from these verses? What names are used for God?

*Wiersbe, Warren W. *Life Sentences: What Sentence Will Sum Up Your Life?* Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan. 2007. pp. 112-113.

The name
of the LORD
is a strong tower;
The righteous
run to it
and are safe.
Proverbs 18:10

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Hannah Has a Baby

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

 **Mission**[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

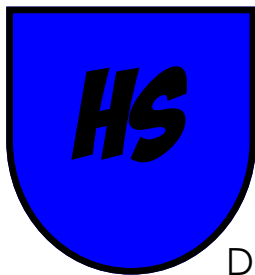
Memory verse:

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)

Our Heroine: _____

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



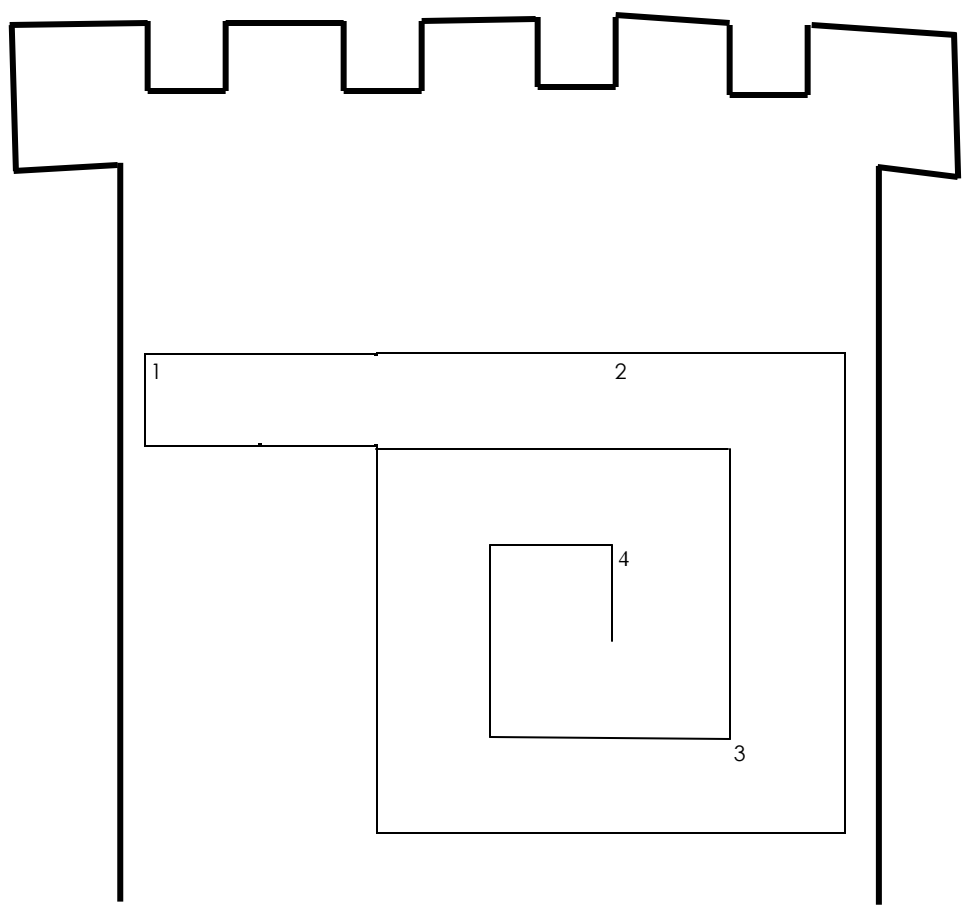
What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11. What do you learn about God from these verses?
What names are used for God? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Fill in the missing words from the memory verse below.
Then fill in the maze in the tower.



The¹ _____ of the LORD is a strong² _____;
The³ _____ run to it and are⁴ _____.

Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)

WORD

SEARCH!

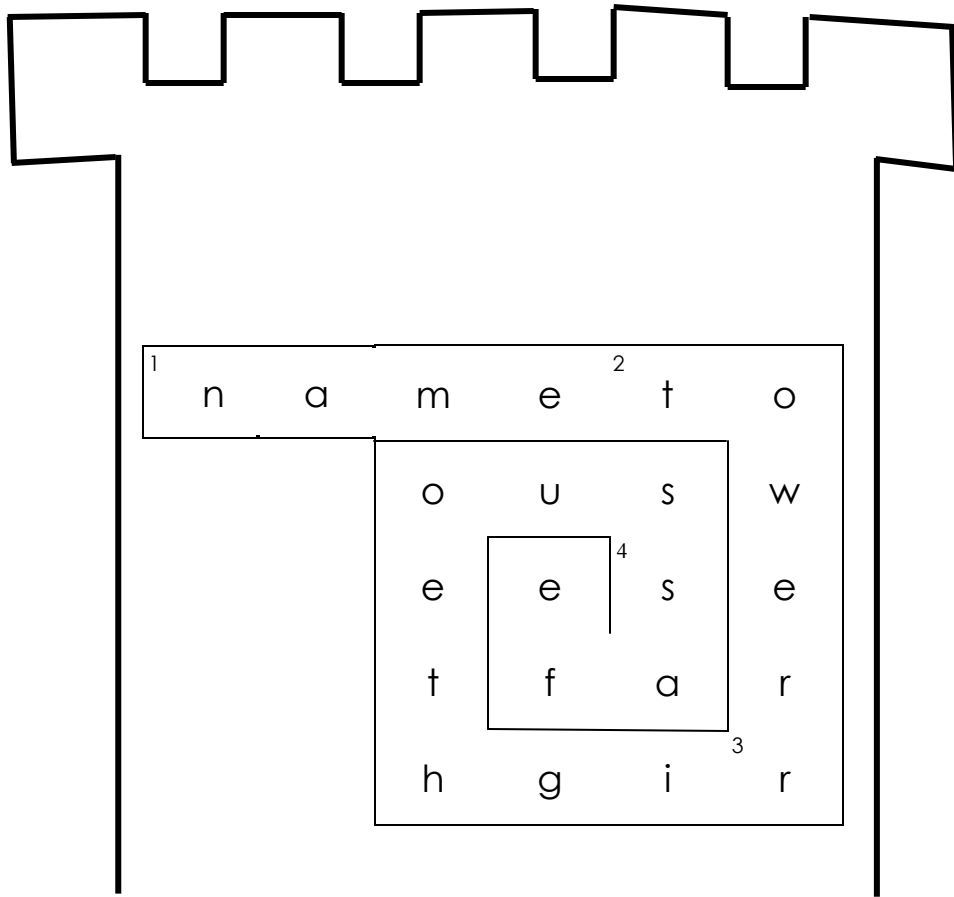
B D C N F F E N M N G D O
S R D O S H O A L E D D S
N T I H S S S S D R O R V
O B P R A Y E D T O G O D
S T O P M A R T E E O L M
W E B Y U S N W R D T E W
O S E R E S H N D S T H E
R T D O L L E E A E R T D
D R I A H G N O L H A F J
S O D E R E W S N A D O G
T S E I R P E H T I L E I
A G C V P D E P E R T S R
M T E L A Y J A R S E U N
F N O N E R D L I H C O N
R O I R R E L K A N A H M

- Elkanah
- Hannah
- no children
- house of the Lord
- Eli the priest
- prayed to God
- God answered
- a son
- Samuel

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Fill in the missing words from the memory verse below.
Then fill in the maze in the tower.



The name of the LORD is a strong tower;

The righteous run to it and are safe.

Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

B D C N F F E N M N G D O
S R D O S H O A L E D D S
N T I H S S S S D R O R V
O B P R A Y E D T O G O D
S T O P M A R T E E O L M
W E B Y U S N W R D T E W
O S E R E S H N D S T H E
R T D O L L E E A E R T D
D R I A H G N O L H A F J
S O D E R E W S N A D O G
T S E I R P E H T I L E I
A G C V P D E P E R T S R
M T E L A Y J A R S E U N
F N O N E R D L I H C O N
R O I R R E L K A N A H M

- Elkanah
- Hannah
- no children
- house of the Lord
- Eli the priest
- prayed to God
- God answered
- a son
- Samuel