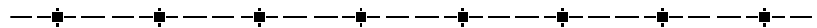


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Woman Prays for a Son

Hannah

Last week we learned about Jephthah. He was a mighty warrior. His brothers did not like him so he ran away from them. Later they came to ask for help from Jephthah. They wanted Jephthah to fight in battle with them against their enemies. Jephthah agreed and God used him to deliver Israel.

I Samuel 1-2

Read the Bible
READ: I Samuel 1:9-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

A Woman Prays for a Son
I Samuel 1:9-18

Begin With Prayer

Memory Verse:
Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.
Philippians 4: 6 (NirV)

This week we will learn about Hannah. Hannah was worried because she did not have any children. God does not want us to worry. "Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns." (Philippians 4:6 The Message) Hannah's husband was named Elkanah. Every year he would go to Shiloh to worship God and to sacrifice to God. Elkanah loved Hannah very much. (I Samuel 1:3) [Teacher: You may want to explain that Elkanah had two wives. The other wife, Penninah was very cruel and teased Hannah. Please explain that God does not want us to be cruel. Also explain that it is not God's plan for a man to have more than one wife.] Hannah was very unhappy because she did not have children. Elkanah would speak to her and tell her that she should not be unhappy. "He would say, 'Hannah, why are you crying? Why don't you eat? Why are you so angry and unhappy? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons.'" (I Samuel 1: 7-8) One year when they were in Shiloh, Hannah went to pray. She cried and sobbed. She prayed to the Lord. She made a promise to God. Hannah promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to God so that he could serve God all his life. (I Samuel 1:9-11) Do you remember someone else who made a promise? (Jephthah made a foolish promise.) Eli, the priest saw her. He saw the way her lips were moving. He could not hear a sound. So Eli thought she was drunk. He did not know that she was praying. (I Samuel 1:12-13) "He said to her, 'How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine.'" (I Samuel 1:14) Hannah let Eli know that she was very sad. She told Eli that her pain was very great and that she was not drunk. She told him that she had been praying to God. Eli told her to go in peace and that he hoped God would give her what she wanted. (I Samuel 1:15-17)

Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Hannah prayed for a son.
2. Learn that Hannah was unhappy because she had no children.
3. Recognize that God hears our prayers.
4. Understand that God answered Hannah's prayer.

Hannah –Bible Facts

1. Hannah was unhappy because she had no children.
2. Hannah asked God for a son.
3. Hannah promised to give her son to the Lord..
4. God gave Hanna a son.
5. Hannah praised God and kept her promise.

After that, Hannah left. She went back to her husband. She ate. Hannah was not sad anymore. (I Samuel 1:18) The next morning Elkanah and his family worshipped the Lord and then went back home. God wants to help us not be worried or sad. The Bible says that when we pray, "It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." (Philippians 4:7 The Message)

Guess what happened next? Hannah got pregnant! Guess what else? The baby was a boy just like she asked! God answered Hannah's prayer. Hannah named the baby Samuel. (I Samuel 1:19-20)

Elkanah kept going to Shiloh every year to sacrifice to the Lord, but Hannah did not go until Samuel was old enough to stay at the house of the Lord. Hannah loved Samuel and took care of him. When he was old enough, Hannah took Samuel to the house of the Lord. She brought flour, wine, and a bull that was three years old to give to the Lord. (I Samuel 1:21-24)

Elkanah and Hannah brought Samuel to Eli the priest. "Hannah said to Eli, 'Sir, I'm the woman who stood here beside you praying ... I prayed for this child... I'm giving him to the Lord.'" The Bible says that all of them worshipped the Lord. (I Samuel 1:26-28)

God sent us His Son, Jesus, so that we can know Him. Like Samuel, Jesus came a baby. When Jesus grew up He died on the cross for our sins so that we can have a personal relationship with God.

Review questions

1. **Why was Hannah unhappy?** (Hannah did not have children.)
2. **What did Hannah do and what did she promise?** (She asked God for a son. She promised to give that son to God.)
3. **What did Eli think she was doing?** (Eli thought Hannah was drunk.)
4. **What did God do?** (God gave Hannah a son.)
5. **What was Hannah's response?** (Hannah worshipped God and gave God her son.)

Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus so that we can know Him. If you will ask for God's forgiveness, He will forgive you. God will come to be a part of your life.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to answer your prayers.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know God.

Application

Hannah was unhappy because she had no children. Hannah prayed for a son. God answered Hannah's prayer. God hears our prayers. He wants us to go to Him in prayer when we have problems. The Bible tells us, "Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel." (Philippians 4:6-7CEV)

Planning for the next week:
Ruth (A Daughter-in-law is Blessed) — Ruth

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Samuel 1:9-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Decorate for a baby shower. If possible bring baby items that can be donated to someone in need.)

Today we will learn about a woman who was very unhappy because she did not have any children. Hannah's husband was named Elkanah. Every year he would go to Shiloh to worship God and to sacrifice to God. Elkanah loved Hannah very much. (I Samuel 1:3)

Hannah was very unhappy because she did not have children. Elkanah would speak to her and tell her that she should not be unhappy. "He would say, 'Hannah, why are you crying? Why don't you eat? Why are you so angry and unhappy? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons.'" (I Samuel 1: 7-8)

One year when they were in Shiloh, Hannah went to pray. She cried and sobbed. She prayed to the Lord. She made a promise to God. Hannah promised God that if he would give her a son, she would give him back to God so that he could serve God all his life. (I Samuel 1:9-11)

After that, Hannah left. She went back to her husband. She ate. Hannah was not sad anymore. (I Samuel 1:18) The next morning Elkanah and his family worshipped the Lord and then went back home. God wants to help us not be worried or sad. The Bible says that when we pray, it's wonderful what happens when Christ takes away our worry. (Philippians 4:7)

Guess what happened next? Hannah got pregnant! Guess what else? The baby was a boy just like she asked! God answered Hannah's prayer. Hannah named the baby Samuel. (I Samuel 1:19-20)

When Jesus was born, He was a baby. God sent Jesus so that we can know Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know Him.
3. Ask God to help family members who need to know God.

Did you know? Preschoolers learn that God answers prayer.

Consider this: Create a prayer journal for each child. Tell them to ask their parents to write down their prayer requests. Then ask them to write the date that the prayer was answered. If the parents are able to, they may want to add pictures related to the answered prayers. You could also keep a prayer journal for the class.

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity — Cut out praying hands. Print the verse on the hands. Practice the verse.

Test your memory — Create word lists using the names of the characters and places in the story. Play races to see who can create the most words. Ask the children to retell the story using the names of people and places in the story.

Taste activity — Elkanah gave Hannah larger portions of meat because he loved her. Surprise the children with a double portion of snacks.

Think about it — Eli the priest thought Hannah was drunk. He did not ask her if she was okay. Sometimes what we see is not what is really happening. Talk about situations when things are not what they seem. Ask the children to tell you about their experiences.

Create a prayer journal for each child. Tell them to ask their parents to write down their prayer requests. Then ask them to write the date that the prayer was answered. If the parents are able to, they may want to add pictures related to the answered prayers. You could also keep a prayer journal for the class. Talk about answered prayer.

Touch activity — Bring several baby dolls. Tell the children that Hannah wanted a baby very much. She prayed and God gave her a baby.

Decorate for a baby shower. If possible bring baby items that can be donated to someone in need.

•**Run and play** — Elkanah and Hannah traveled yearly to go sacrifice to God. Have the children run to an area that is labeled church.

•**Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to ask Him for what we need.

•**Sing** — Teach the children songs about prayer based on scripture. Sing “Seek Ye First,” or other songs based on Scripture.

Memory Verse

Don't worry about
anything.

Instead, tell God
about everything.

Ask and pray.

Give thanks
to him.

Philippians 4:6

NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Hannah

prayed.

God

answered.

Word Puzzle

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

HUSBAND

WIFE

CHILDREN

PRAYED

SON

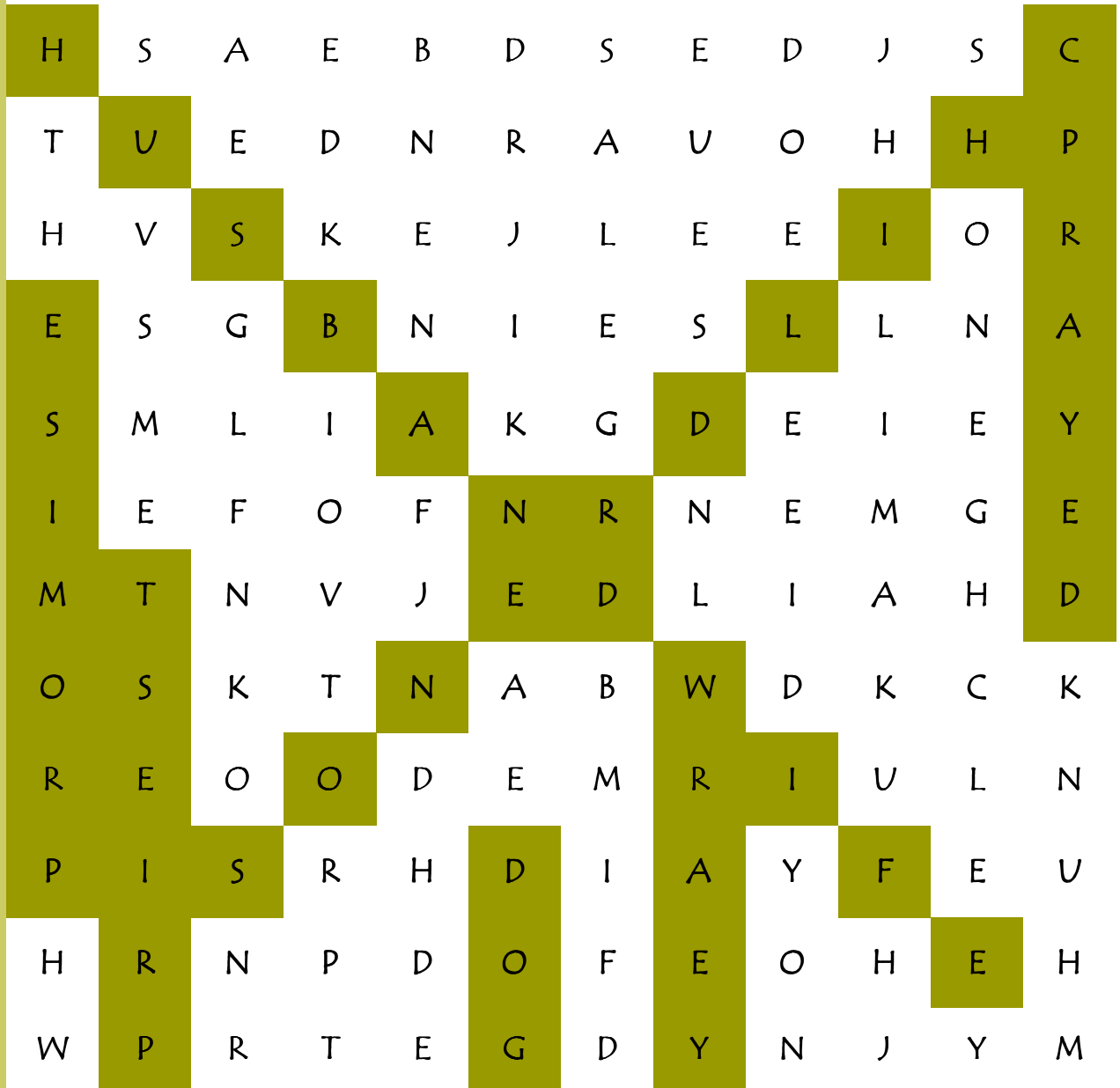
PROMISE

PRIEST

GOD

YEAR

Word Puzzle



HUSBAND

WIFE

CHILDREN

PRAYED

SON

PROMISE

PRIEST

GOD

YEAR

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

HANNAH

SAMUEL

PRAYED

PRIEST

ANSWER

SON

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

P R I E S T

R P W L Q F

P D B Z A T

A N S W E R

G F D B D A

U G H T E R

S O N

V R K

H A N N A H

T V K I C E

L D E R S W

B R O T H E

S A M U E L

P E N J M E

R S Z O K F

R F G P L F

P R A Y E D

HANNAH

SAMUEL

PRAYED

PRIEST

ANSWER

SON

Anagram

1. EAAHLKN– ELKANAH
2. HNHAAN– HANNAH
3. IOHHLS– SHILOH
4. EINCRHDL– CHILDREN
5. IIEACCSRF– SACRIFICE
6. EAYDPR– PRAYED
7. LIE– ELI
8. EUAMLS– SAMUEL

Anagram

1. EAAHLKN-

2. HNHAAN-

3. IOHHLS-

4. EINCRHDL-

5. IIEACCSRF-

6. EAYDPR-

7. LIE-

8. EUAMLS-