



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Answers Prayers

SCRIPTURE: [1 Samuel 1](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Ephesians 3:20](#)

Hannah was wrecked; distraught to the point of being confused with someone in a drunken state. She was weeping in the house of God, alone and in despair.

The only person who saw her in her most desperate state was the priest Eli. Hannah had come to the house of the Lord to pray. She had come to God, and God sent a minister. Take a moment and read [1 Samuel 1:9–28](#).

As ministers, there are times we are privy to the experiences of others no one else gets to see. And often, in their encounter with God, He sends us as ministers of His presence and grace. That also means we often get to see just how beautifully God answers prayers, just like He did for Hannah.

Consider a time you have seen God work in this way. Has God gifted you with the opportunity to share His grace with others? It's a blessed and sacred thing to be the voice of comfort and mercy and the reminder of God's presence in those moments. God answers prayers, and sometimes we get to be part of that answer.

—Christina Embree

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LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS
GOD ANSWERS HANNAH'S PRAYER

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Elkanah and Hannah—an Israelite family; Hannah is barren. Eli is the priest at the tabernacle where they worship. Samuel is Hannah's miracle son.

WHAT?

Hannah's barrenness was considered a curse of shame in Israelite culture. Her despair brings her to the temple where she weeps before God, begging Him for a child. Eli confirms that God has heard her prayer and will give her a child.

WHERE?

Elkanah's family lived in Ramah (1 Samuel 1:19) and worshiped in Shiloh (1:3). Today, Ramah is located about five miles north of Jerusalem at an archeological site called Al-Ram. Shiloh still exists 19 miles north of Jerusalem.

WHEN?

Hannah's story takes place during the time of the judges before Israel had kings. Her son Samuel would later anoint both Saul and David as the first two kings of Israel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Hannah kept praying year after year until God answered her prayer. Her perseverance was the type Jesus would tell His disciples to have in prayer too: "always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1).



Curiosity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: cookie cutter letters, playdoh, crayons/markers

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Letters and Sight Words

Set-up: Print the [Sight Words Cards](#) and cut apart the cards. Spread out the letter blocks or magnets. If using magnets, provide a surface to put the letters on, such as a cookie sheet or magnetic white board.

Play: Invite kids to play with the letters and create words they commonly see. Point them to the [Sight Word Cards](#) if they need inspiration.



Leader Tip: Be aware that some kids will be further along in this area of learning than others. Encourage kids to play with the letters in other ways like sorting by colors, counting them, etc.

Play Station: God Answers Hannah's Prayer Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something they want to ask God for.



9:00 Service

Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for answering our prayers. Help us trust in You more and more and in what You've promised. We invite You to speak to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible important? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 156-169

Hannah's Prayer

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why was Hannah sad? *(She couldn't have kids.)*

What did Hannah ask the Lord for? *(a baby boy)*

- How did Hannah feel when she left the tabernacle? *(She was no longer sad.)*
- What did God do for Hannah? *(He answered her prayers. He gave her a son.)*
- What is prayer? *(talking with God)*
- When can you pray?
- Do you think God hears your prayers? Why or why not?
- What is a prayer you are asking for God to answer?

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**God is able to do far more than we could
ever ask for or imagine.**

— Ephesians 3:20

Say the Word of Wonder several times with the kids repeating after you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What is one thing you imagine God can do? What has God done for**
- **you? What does this verse tell us about God?**



Faith

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Active Game: Call and Answer

SUPPLIES: blindfolds (optional, 1 per kid)

Before the game, clear a space in the room for the group to stand and the kid who is "It" to walk around. This game is similar to "Marco Polo."

Hannah prayed and God answered her prayers. In this game, someone will call out, "God answers," and the rest of us will answer with the word "prayers."

Pick one kid to be It and blindfold him or have him close his eyes while the rest of the group gets into position. Ask the rest of the group to pick any spot in the room and stand still.

The person with his eyes closed will call out, "God answers," and the rest of the group will say, "prayers!" After hearing the answer, the blindfolded person will move in the direction of the kids to try to tap another kid. He can continue to call out, "God answers," and listen for the kids to answer to determine where to go. Kids can't move when the person with the blindfold gets closer to them. When he taps someone, she is the new "caller," and the game begins again.



9:00 Service

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Responding in Worship: Joyful Praise

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, basket

Place a basket nearby. Give all the kids paper and coloring utensils.

Do you remember how Hannah felt after God answered her prayers? Interact with responses. **Yes! She was no longer sad. There's a passage in the Bible that says, "I looked to the Lord, and he answered me ... Those who look to him have joyful faces" (Psalm 34:4–5).** Can you show me joyful faces right now? Allow responses from the kids.

We can be joyful because we know God answers prayers. Now, does God always give us what we want? No, not always. And sometimes His answer is "Yes," or "Not now," or "I have something even better than you can imagine." But no matter how God chooses to answer our prayer, we can be sure that He hears us, He cares about us, and He will answer in a way that is best for us!

In this time, you can think of something you want to pray about. You can draw what you're praying about and then place your picture in this basket. Then we'll be joyful by singing and dancing because we know God answers prayers.

Allow kids time to draw their prayers and place them in the basket. Then, turn on upbeat music from the flash drive and allow time for kids to worship God to the music.

9:00 Service

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for how He hears and answers our prayers.

Dear God, thank You for answering our prayers. We know You're in charge of everything and that You love us. Remind us that we can always pray and talk with You. You always answer us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you trust that God hears your prayers. May God show Himself to you in your life. May God's presence give you hope and peace.