



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

Nonprofit Ministry Director and Minister of Generational Discipleship

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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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Curiosity Activity: What's in Here?

SUPPLIES: opaque containers with lids (3), dry beans (enough to fill a container), cotton balls (enough to fill a container), bells (enough to fill a container)

Before beginning, fill one container with beans, one with cotton balls, and one with bells. Don't let the kids see what's in the containers.

I have a question for you. What usually comes after a question or a request? Pause for responses. An answer! Yes. And you just answered my question!

In this game, I will shake one of these containers (point to a container) and ask the question, "What's in here?" You can answer by telling me what you think is inside.

Hold up the container of dry beans and shake it gently. Invite the kids to come close to listen to the container. **Here's my question: What's in here?** Allow kids to share their answers. If kids need a hint, you can say something like "It's a type of food. It can be black or refried." **You've got it—beans!**

Awesome! Hold up the container of cotton balls and shake it gently. **This might be tough. Get ready with your answers. What's in here?** Allow kids to share their answers. Again, you can give hints like "They're white and soft" and "You can't eat them." **Very good. Cotton balls is the answer.**

Great job! Last container. Hold up the container of bells and shake it gently. **Get ready to answer. What's in here?** Allow kids to share their answers. **Yes, it's bells!**

You've done a great job answering the question we had today. Did you know you can ask God questions? You can also tell Him about anything you need. God invites us to talk with Him and ask for His help. When we talk to God, it's called prayer. We can talk with Him any time. God loves it when we talk with Him. He will always answer us, even if the answer is different than what we wanted. God knows what's best for us and is always working for our good. We know we can talk to God about anything because God answers prayers!



10:45 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 156-159

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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Craft: Prayer Cups

SUPPLIES: large disposable cups (1 per kid), markers, colored cardstock or construction paper (several sheets), scissors or paper cutter (prep only), stickers (optional), colored yarn (optional), tape or glue (optional)

Before you begin, cut the cardstock or construction paper into strips at least 2" wide. You'll need several for each kid.

God loves when we pray! He listens to us and answers us. We're going to make Prayer Cups that will remind us to pray, and you can use them to celebrate when God answers your prayers too.



Show kids the cups and the colorful strips of paper. Give the kids time to decorate their cups and place the strips inside them. Kids can draw on the cups with markers, add stickers to them, or wrap yarn around them.

You can take home your cups and use the strips of paper to write about or draw your prayers—one strip per prayer—and place them into the cups. You can pull out the prayer strips to keep praying for that request. When God answers your prayer, you can place that strip somewhere special. You could place it in a book, attach it to a wall, or put it on your fridge.

Leader Tip: This is a good activity to invite families into together. Parents can join their children in praying for the requests daily and placing the strips in main areas of their home when they are answered.



10:45 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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Closing Activity: God Answered Hannah Actions

What did Hannah ask for when she prayed? Allow the kids time to answer. **Yes, she prayed for a baby!** We're going to remember what God did for Hannah as we play this game.

First, we remember that Hannah was sad. When I say, "sad face," show a sad face. Let's practice. Say "sad face" and let kids make sad faces. **Good job!**

Then, we remember that Hannah prayed. When I say, "praying hands," you stop and show praying hands by placing them together in front of you. Model how to hold your hands in prayer. **Let's practice.** Say "praying hands" and let kids make praying hands motion.

How did Hannah feel after she prayed? She probably felt happy! When I say, "happy face," show me your biggest, most joyful face. What does yours look like? Allow actions.

And then God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a baby! When I say, "little baby," you can rock your arms back and forth. Demonstrate the action of rocking a baby. **Show me how you rock a baby.** Allow actions.

Are you ready? Let's play! Allow kids to move around as they play this game. Call out the four actions—sad face, praying hands, happy face, little baby. You might want to start slowly and then call out the actions faster and faster. Feel free to mix up the actions also for an added challenge.

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.