

Samuel Is Born

1 Samuel 1:20-28

MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 1:27

“For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Prepare before class several small slips of paper with questions on them (see questions listed in activity below) and additional slips of paper with answers, keep them in two separate jars.

As many “birth announcements” as the number of children in your class, black or gold construction paper (squares can be pre-cut to be larger than the announcement to give the appearance of a frame), crayons or markers, and glue.

A large sheet of paper and crayons or markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Questions and Answers

There are few things more discouraging to a child’s faith in God than to think that everyone else gets everything they pray for when they don’t. To show that God’s answer is always wise and fits our needs, play this silly “Q and A” game. Write various questions (make more than this) and then write the answers on separate slips of paper such as:

Questions:

- 1). What animal says “moo?”
- 2). What color is the grass?
- 3). What fruit is red?
- 4). What color are bananas?
- 5). How many ears do you have?
- 6). How many cats are in your Sunday school room?

- 7). Do you have an alligator in your home?
- 8). What is the answer to $2 + 1$?

Answers:

- 1). Cow
- 2). Green
- 3). Apple or Pomegranate
- 4). Yellow
- 5). Two
- 6). None
- 7). No
- 8). Three

Put all questions and answers on separate pieces of paper; put questions in one jar and answers in another jar. Let one child pick and read a question and another child pick an answer. The answers in this game will not always fit the questions; in contrast, God's answers always fit exactly. In today's lesson, we will see how God answered the prayer of a godly woman by the name of Hannah.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever felt really sad about something or a situation in your life? Perhaps the situation seemed hopeless. Perhaps it seemed that there was no way that your pain or suffering could be removed? Hopefully, you have not had to face such a trial yet; but at some time, you may. The big questions are, "Who will you turn to when it happens and what will you do?"

In our lesson last week, Hannah was in such a situation. In her time of sorrow and hopelessness, she prayed; and God faithfully met her needs. God was faithful to Hannah. How will Hannah respond? Will she keep her promises to God? **God is pleased when we keep our promises.**

1 SAMUEL 1:20

So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

Remember, Hannah was unable to bare children before the Lord intervened. Women, who were barren in that day suffered from embarrassment and the rejection of those around them. Hannah could have been overwhelmed with sorrow and despair; but she brought her concerns to God. God does not want us to bear a heavy load. He wants to replace our fear and anxiety with His peace. God is faithful to hear us when we call upon Him. In Philippians in 4:6,7 we read: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

God heard Hannah's prayer and Hannah conceived a son. In response to God's faithfulness, she named him Samuel, which means "heard of God," for she had asked God for a son and He "heard" her prayer.

God does not always answer our prayers the way we would like them to be answered. Sometimes, the answer is "no." Yet as we pray for His will to be done, just as Jesus taught us (Matthew 6:10), we can take comfort in knowing that God's perfect purpose will be accomplished in our life just as it was in Hannah's life. God works all things together for good in the life of a believer (Romans 8:28).

1 SAMUEL 1:21-23

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

It was a commandment for the people of Israel to bring a sacrifice to the house of the Lord (tabernacle) every year (Deuteronomy 12:11). Elkanah was faithful to perform this duty; in 1 Samuel 1:19, we read that Elkanah and his household rose early and worshipped before the Lord. Our commitment to fellowship with God should be a daily commitment—a way of life—as it was with Elkanah. May we begin our day, every day, with the Lord!

Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow to the Lord (verse 3); but this time, Hannah would stay home to take care of baby Samuel who was not yet weaned. Hannah would take care of Samuel only until the time was right for Samuel to be given to the Lord for service. Samuel remained with his mother until he was about three years old.

As we observe Elkanah and Hannah, we note they did not live just for the here and now; they lived for eternity. They were heavenly minded. They knew that God was actively involved in their life, working out His purposes in them. Let us be "heavenly" minded as were Elkanah and Hannah.

Birth Announcement

Use the template provided with your curriculum. Copy and cut apart one birth announcement for each child to color. After coloring the announcement, take a sheet of gold or black construction paper and cut a square slightly larger than the birth announcement. Glue the announcement to the construction paper to give the appearance of a frame.

As the children are making their announcements, explain to them that the Lord answered Hannah's prayer; then, Hannah was faithful and kept her promise to the Lord. The Lord honored that promise and made Samuel to become a great man of God.

1 SAMUEL 1:24-25

Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.

Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

When the time was right, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord, presenting him to Eli to serve God in the tabernacle. Hannah expressed her faith in her faithful God. To follow through with her promise, she surrendered to the service of the Lord that which she had yearned for most—her son. Just as Hannah was faithful in her commitment to God, **God is pleased when we keep our promises.**

Hannah's heart is revealed in obedience to God. Her faith was living and active, and God blessed her for it. The believer, who is abiding in Christ through worship, meditation on His Word, prayer

and service to Him, will have their prayers answered (John 15:7). God blesses those who live in obedience, giving them a joyful experience in our relationship with Him.

1 SAMUEL 1:26-28

And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD.

"For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

"Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Hannah reminds Eli that she was the woman who prayed for a child a few years ago and now stands before him with God's blessing. Here was a living testimony of God's faithfulness to prayer. Hannah had witnessed God's mercy and grace upon her life; with joy, she would follow through with her commitment to give back what God had given her. **God is pleased when we keep our promises.**

As Christians, we must realize that God has given us a new life through His mercy and grace. In response to this, it is our reasonable service to give ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice unto Him (Romans 12:1). Like Hannah, we must realize that we belong to God—we are His possession; everything we have received is from Him. He wants us to offer ourselves completely, laying aside our own desires to follow Him.

Hannah would not forget her son. She would visit him regularly and each year she brought him a linen robe just like Eli's (2:19). In later years, Samuel lived in Ramah (7:17) to be in the hometown of his parents (1:19-20). Also, God greatly blessed Hannah in giving her five more children (2:21). God is awesome.

Hannah would experience the joy of watching her son serve the Lord as a great prophet of God. Even at an early age, Samuel worshipped God in the temple revealing a heart that loved the Lord. And because of his devotion, the Lord would use him in a mighty way, leading His people by revealing God's Word and His ways.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to keep all of their promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

