

**Old Testament**  
**Lesson 65: Hannah's Prayer**

Text: I Samuel 1-2:11

Memory Verses:	I Samuel 1:11	And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.
	I Samuel 1:27, 28	For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him:  Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we can begin to serve God while we are still young and be faithful to God all our lives.</li> <li>• God always listens and answers our prayers.</li> </ul>
--------	--

*Outline:*

- I. Samuel is born. I Samuel 1
  - A. Elkanah and his wives.
  - B. Hannah's prayer.
  - C. Samuel is born.
  - D. Presented for service to God.
  
- II. Hannah's prayer of praise. I Samuel 2:1-11

*Facts:*

1. The books of Samuel and Kings are one continuous record. I Samuel's author is uncertain. It is thought Samuel wrote chapters 1-24. Then it was completed by Nathan and Gad or possibly Abiathar (all priests). I Samuel covers about ninety-four years (1105-1011 B.C.). Its key figures are Samuel, Saul, and David.
2. The book of I Samuel includes events studied in the period of Judges. It describes Israel's growing desire for a king "like other nations." Samuel was critical in this new phase of government from judgeship to kings. As both a judge and a prophet, Samuel had the tremendous task of rebuilding social and religious unity. From this time on, prophets sustained the spiritual life of Israel. God communicated through these prophets to Israel's ruler and the people. Old

- Testament prophets also served as the historians of their times. The book of Samuel clearly reveals that the success or failure of its kings was determined by their obedience to God.
3. Elkanah was a man from the tribe of Ephraim who lived in the city of Ramathaim-zophim. (Ramathaim-zophim means “twin heights.” It is the dual form of Ramah meaning “high,” later known as Arimathea.) Elkanah was a Levite and had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah did not. (Deuteronomy 21:15-17)
  4. Each year Elkanah and his family travelled to Shiloh to worship God and offer sacrifices. The priests at that time were Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Elkanah brought a thank offering to God. (Leviticus 7:11-18) As they partook of this offering, he gave a portion to Peninnah and her children and an extra portion to Hannah, for he loved her the most.
  5. Having no children was a painful disappointment to Hannah. Peninnah made fun of Hannah for being barren as they went to Shiloh to the point Hannah would cry and could not eat. Elkanah would try to make her feel better. He would ask Hannah wasn't he and his love as good as having ten sons?
  6. After supper one evening, Hannah went to the tabernacle to pray. Eli was sitting at the entrance. In deep anguish and tears, she vowed to God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to God in dedicated lifetime service as a Nazarite. (Her vow is twofold: lifelong Levitical service until age fifty and as a Nazarite. (Numbers 6:2) Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist were all dedicated as Nazarites from birth.)
  7. Eli watched Hannah as she prayed silently. Silent prayer was not characteristic of early Hebrew prayer, so Eli thought Hannah was drunk. He accused her but she quickly assured Eli she was not such a base woman. She told Eli she had come to pour out her heart to God. Eli encouraged Hannah and hoped that God granted her request. She went back to her family and ate.
  8. They all worshipped God early the next morning then returned to Ramah. In due time, Hannah and Elkanah had a baby boy named “Samuel” meaning “asked of God.”
  9. The next year as Elkanah's family goes to Shiloh, Hannah and Samuel stayed at home. Hannah told her husband when Samuel was weaned she would take him to the tabernacle to serve.
  10. Even though Samuel was still very young, Hannah fulfilled her vow to God. She took to Shiloh three bulls to offer: one for the vow of the child, one for a burnt offering and one for a thank offering, along with an ephah (~ one bushel) of flour and a bottle of wine.
  11. As she took Samuel to Eli, she reminded Eli of her praying in the tabernacle for a child. She placed Samuel in Eli's care to serve God for the rest of his life.
  12. Hannah prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for her son. She rejoiced and praised God for His strength and refuge. She praised His fair judgment. She recognized all matters of life and death are in God's hands. He is pre-eminent over all.

*Visuals:*

- Characterization props:
  - map - Ephraim, Ramah, Shiloh
  - meat offering - any type meat, preferably beef, pretend or real
  - Peninnah's children - paper dolls
  - Hannah's tears - handkerchief, tissues
  - tabernacle model
  - offering - bulls - toy cows, flour, grape juice, Kool Aid
- Puppets/Dolls - Elkanah, Hannah, Peninnah, Eli, Samuel
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

*Songs:*

- As The Deer
- Ere You Left Your Room This Morning
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is So Good
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- Humble Yourself
- I'm Happy Today
- If You're Happy & You Know It
- It Isn't Any Trouble
- Jesus Loves The Little Children
- On Bended Knee
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Samuel Pleased The Lord
- Samuel's Mother
- Take My Life And Let It Be
- The Lord Has Been Mindful Of Me
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Tiptoe Tiptoe
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Bow Down
- Whatever I Shall Be
- Whisper A Prayer

*Activities:*

- Use application stories/activities on: prayer, helping others
- *I Spent The Day With ...* - Imagine what it must have been like in Bible times. Have students choose a Bible person or delegate one to each student. Have them describe 3 things that happened on a day with their Bible person. This can be an oral or written activity.

- *Prayer Chain* - Cut strips of colored paper. Ask students to write on the strips their prayer requests or thanksgiving to God. If time allows have them illustrate. Offer their prayer requests and thanksgiving to God then staple or glue the strips together and display in the classroom.
- *Who's My Mother* - Make a list of Bible people of whom you know their mother's name. Give students the Bible person's name and have them give the mother's name. This may be done oral or written.
- Age-appropriate handwork

*Discussion Questions:*

1. When are we old enough to serve God?
2. Why did Elkanah have two wives?
3. How did Peninnah treat Hannah? Have you ever treated someone this way?
4. How did it make Hannah feel? How would it make you feel?
5. Did God listen to Hannah's prayer? Does God listen to your prayers?
6. How often do you pray? What are some things we can pray to God about?
7. What is a vow? What vow did Hannah make? What is important about a vow?
8. How might Hannah have felt leaving her young son with Eli? How might Samuel have felt?
9. How are you serving God? What other ways could you be serving God? What new way will you serve Him this week?

\*\*\*\*\*