

# Hannah

1 Samuel 1:1-19

## MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 1:10

“And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.”

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

“From Your Mouth To God’s Ear” template, card stock or construction paper, a 36” piece of string, glue and a paper clip.

Enough copies of the “Praying Hannah” template, crayons or markers, and brads.

A prayer list chart. You can use the one provided with the curriculum or create your own list using butcher paper.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### From Your Mouth to God’s Ear!

Glue the “God’s ear” to a piece of stiff paper (“God’s ear” template provided with curriculum), punch the hole and thread a 36” piece of string through the hole. Tie a paper clip on the end in front and knot the end that is in back.

Ask for some prayer requests from the kids (write them down for them if they cannot write yet). Holding up the ear with the string extended long in the front, have them stick the requests (maybe a few at a time) on the paper clip.

After they are on the paper clip, pull them up to the ear to show that **God hears our prayers.**

## LESSON TIME!

How we can rejoice that **God hears our prayers** and answers them according to His perfect will! Nothing escapes His attention and for that we can be thankful. In our lesson today, Hannah carried a heavy burden to the Lord; so should we learn, early in life, to carry every burden to Him.

### 1 SAMUEL 1:1-7

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.

And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

Elkanah was from the mountains of Ephraim and had two wives, one was named Hannah and the other named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. In those days, having children, especially sons to pass on the family name was thought to be extremely important. To be childless was looked on as a curse.

Perhaps, though Elkanah loved Hannah, he took Peninnah as his wife so she could bear children and carry on the family name. This action would have added to the great sadness and disgrace Hannah felt.

Every year Elkanah and his family would travel 20 miles northeast of Jerusalem to Shiloh, the place of the house of the Lord, to worship and sacrifice to God. And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Hannah, Peninnah, and Peninnah's sons and daughters. The portion Hannah received was always double, because he loved her even though she had no children. Though Elkanah displayed his kindness in giving Hannah a double portion, Peninnah would mock her and provoke her because she had no children. This hurt Hannah very much, so much so that she wept and would not eat.

As Christians, we represent Jesus. We should never be guilty of mocking or putting a person down because he or she lacks a blessing we have been given. Instead, let us go out our way to comfort and encourage others. God's love will not harm another, but seek to protect.

## 1 SAMUEL 1:8-11

Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Hannah was overwhelmed by her situation. She was so saddened because she could not have children that she had difficulty counting the other blessings God had given her. She continually wept and did not eat anything.

She arose and went into the tabernacle of the Lord and cried out to Him there. She poured out her soul to the Lord in prayer and asked God to give her a son. She made a promise to the Lord: If God would grant her request, she would dedicate the child to God, for God's service.

Hannah did what we should all do when we come up against a tough situation; she prayed and poured her heart out to God. God wants us to come to Him in every situation of our lives; perhaps someone is treating you unkindly at school; perhaps you are concerned with family problems or with those who do not know

Jesus. God knows your concerns before you even ask. Whatever your burden, take it to the Lord in prayer. Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you." The Lord hears our prayers to Him and answers them according to His perfect will. **God hears our prayers.**

## Praying Hannah

Before class make enough copies of the "Praying Hannah" template (provided with your curriculum) as the number of children in your class. Have the children cut out the top portion of Hannah (located on the bottom 1/2 of the template), color all of her, then with a brad attach her top to her legs. Hannah can now bend up and down to show her kneeling in prayer.

As you are putting together this craft, discuss prayer with the children. Ask them what they would do when they are sad about something. Maybe a few children can share about ways that God has answered prayer in their lives.

### 1 SAMUEL 1:12-18

And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

"Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Eli the priest of the tabernacle was there and was watching Hannah pray silently before the Lord. But Eli did not know she was praying. He saw her lips moving but she was not making any noise, so he thought she may have been drunk and began to accuse her.

Hannah quickly explained that she was not drunk but sad and that she was pouring her heart out to God. Eli knew that God heard her prayers and would do what was best for her, so he sent her away in peace. Hannah went her way and ate some food and her face was no longer sad. Hannah had left her request in God's hands!

The Bible says: "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" (Philippians 4:6,7). And in 1 John 5:15, we read, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Hannah did not feel a need to worry or be saddened any longer, for her request was in God's hands; He would do what was best for her, even if that meant not having a son. When we come to the Lord in prayer, we leave our burdens in His hands. We can rest in God's peace knowing that He will do what is best for us even if it means

saying no or not right now. God made us and knows our needs better than anyone else could; He will take care of us. We can rest in that confidence. **God hears our prayers.**

## **Prayer List for the Classroom**

Use the chart provided with the curriculum or make your own prayer list for your class to pray for and watch for the Lord's answers. As an option you could get a large sheet of butcher paper and ask the children each week how the Lord has answered their prayers.

Remind the children that God always hears and He always answers but not always in our timing (which is usually "right now!") and not always with the answer we desire.

Pray together as a class for the different needs indicated on the prayer list and watch what the Lord does.

## **PRAYER**

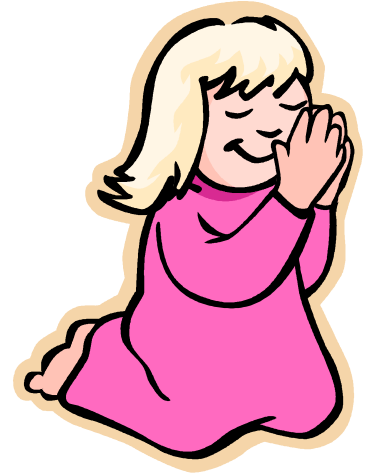
Lead the children in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for all His answered prayers in their lives. Encourage the children to "pray without ceasing." If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.





GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

# Classroom Prayer List



List your prayer requests and mark a check and date that the request was answered by the Lord.

Post in your classroom.

REQUEST

✓ Date Answered

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“...pray without ceasing...” 1 Thessalonians 5:17



GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS