

Use Week of:

Unit 10 • Session 1

Hannah and Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 1–3

STORY POINT:

God called Hannah's son to share
God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE:

Jeremiah 10:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is anything or anyone greater than God?
No, God is greater than everything
and everyone.



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(10–15 MINUTES)
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(25–30 MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

The time of the judges was turbulent for God's people. The Israelites had conquered the promised land of Canaan, but after Joshua's death, they fell into a cycle of sin. This was the culture in which Hannah and her husband Elkanah lived. They were ordinary Israelites—Elkanah, a devoted worshiper of the Lord; and Hannah, a woman who wanted nothing more than to be a mother. But the Lord had closed her womb. (1 Sam. 1:5)

One year, when Elkanah went to make sacrifices and worship God, Hannah went too. She could no longer hide her grief over being childless. She prayed so fervently to the Lord—asking for a child and vowing to dedicate him to God—that Eli the priest rebuked her because he thought she was drunk.

God answered Hannah's prayers, and she named her son Samuel, which means "requested from God." When Samuel was old enough to wean, Hannah presented him to Eli. First Samuel 2 records Hannah's triumphant prayer. Hannah glorified God for His sovereignty; then she went home with her husband, leaving Samuel to serve God under the leadership of Eli.

Hannah visited Samuel each year and brought him a robe. Samuel faithfully served God. On the other hand, Eli's sons—though they were priests—had no regard for God. They did not listen to Eli, so God rejected Eli's family. This hard news came to Eli through the boy Samuel.

Review 1 Samuel 3. Note how Samuel responded to God's call: "Speak, for Your servant is listening." Today, help kids identify Samuel's role as God's messenger. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. Lead them to connect Samuel to Jesus. Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God's plan and showed what God is like.

The BIBLE Story

Hannah and Samuel

1 Samuel 1–3

In a country called Ephraim, a man named Elkanah lived with his wife Hannah. Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. Hannah wanted to have a family.

Every year, Elkanah went to the tabernacle to make sacrifices to God and to worship Him.

Hannah went with him.

Hannah prayed to God, “Lord, if You give me a son, I will dedicate him to You. He will serve You all of his life.” A priest named Eli was sitting near the doorpost of the tabernacle. Eli watched Hannah pray. He couldn’t hear her, but he saw her lips moving. Eli thought there was something wrong with Hannah.

Hannah explained, “I’ve been pouring out my heart before the Lord.”

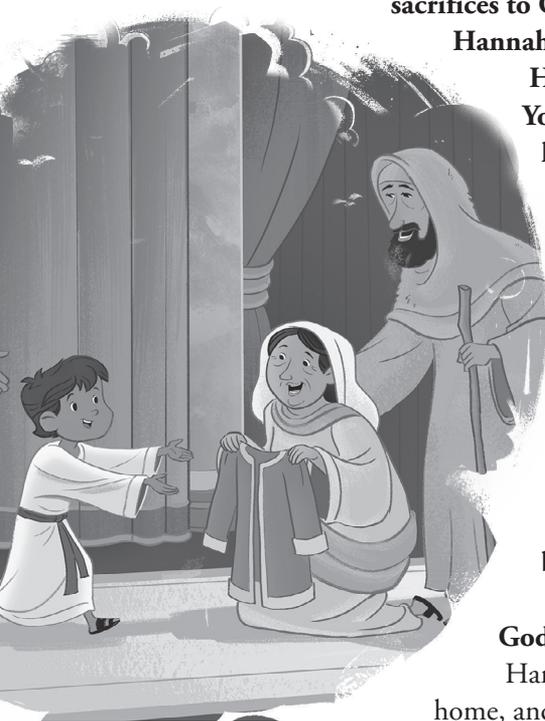
Eli replied, “Go in peace. May God answer your prayers.”

Hannah and Elkanah returned home, and God did answer her prayers.

After some time, Hannah gave birth to a son.

She named him Samuel.

When Samuel was no longer a baby, Hannah took him to Eli at the tabernacle. “God answered my prayers!” she said. Hannah pledged Samuel to serve God, and she worshiped God.



Bible Storytelling Tips

Hannah returned home and **left Samuel with Eli to serve God. Every year, Hannah returned with a new robe for Samuel, and God gave Hannah many more children.**

Eli was getting old, and his sons served as priests in the tabernacle. Eli heard that his sons were sinning against God. Eli asked his sons why they were sinning, but they did not listen to him. Samuel, on the other hand, grew older and found favor with God and with men.

One night, Eli was in his bed and Samuel was lying in the tabernacle when Samuel heard someone call his name. “Here I am,” Samuel replied. He ran to Eli. “Here I am; you called me.” But it wasn’t Eli. He told Samuel to go back to bed.

God called Samuel three times, and each time Samuel ran to Eli. “Here I am,” he said. Eli finally understood that God was calling to Samuel. He told Samuel how to respond.

Samuel went back to his place, and God called, “Samuel, Samuel!”

“Speak, for Your servant is listening,” Samuel replied. God told Samuel that He was going to judge Eli’s family for their sin. The next day, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God said, so Samuel did.

As Samuel grew, God was with him. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God’s messenger. God used Samuel to share His plan with the nation of Israel.

Christ Connection: Samuel used God’s words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God’s plan and showed what God is like.

- **Use props:** Use props to bring the story to life—a chair near the door for Eli, a robe for Hannah, and a pillow and blanket on the floor for Samuel. Gesture toward the prompts at appropriate points during the story.
- **Emphasize dialogue:** Vary your voice to emphasize lines of dialogue.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Hannah and Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

STORY POINT: God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 10:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share one thing they want more than anything else. Then explain that today kids will hear a story about Hannah, who wanted a baby more than anything else.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "People Paths" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete "People Paths" on the activity page. Guide kids to trace the paths to learn about each person. Invite volunteers to read aloud the description of each person.

SAY • Hannah, Samuel, and Eli are all people we will hear about in today's Bible story. We'll find out more about who they were and what they did.

**LOW
PREP**

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Name-calling

Invite a volunteer to come to the front of the room and lie on the floor with her eyes closed or sit in a chair with her back to the group. Point to a kid in the group to call out the

volunteer's name two times. The volunteer will try to guess who called her name by replying, "Speak, [*name of speaker*], for I am listening."

If the volunteer correctly identifies the speaker, she takes his place in the crowd and he moves to the front of the room. If she does not correctly identify the speaker, allow two more guesses before revealing his identity and calling for a new volunteer.

SAY • In today's Bible story, God called a boy named Samuel. Did Samuel recognize God's voice? We'll soon find out!

OPTION 2: Bathrobe relay

Form teams of up to 10 kids. If you have fewer than 10 kids total, play together as one team. Direct half of the kids to stand in a single-file line at one side of the room (side A) and the other half to stand in a single-file line at the other side of the room (side B) across from the rest of their teammates.

Give a bathrobe to the first kid in line on side A. When you say go, the first player should put on the robe, run to his teammate on side B, and remove the robe. The teammate on side B should put on the robe, run to the next player in line on side A, and remove the robe. Then that player will begin. Continue until all the kids return to their original sides of the room.

SAY • Do any of you have your own bathrobe at home? In the Bible story we will hear today, a boy named Samuel wore a robe. It wasn't a bathrobe, but his mom gave him a new robe each year as he grew.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Hannah and Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

STORY POINT: God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 10:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Simulate a wild environment such as a jungle. Hang artificial vines from the ceiling. Cover a focal wall with green shades of paper and attach tropical leaves cutouts. Arrange a blue sheet on the floor like a shallow pool or stream. Considering positioning pictures, cutouts, or inflatables of animals around the room.

Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- backpack
- Bible
- binoculars

[Leader enters wearing green or khaki pants, a utility shirt, and a backpack containing a Bible. Leader may choose to accessorize with sunglasses or a hat. He or she also carries a pair of binoculars.]

LEADER • Hello, explorers! I'm [your name]. Isn't this jungle amazing? I've just started a three-week trek through the jungle. I'm glad I ran into you here. This looks like a good place to replenish my supplies and rest for a day. Have you seen any animals yet? *[Peer through the binoculars.]* Many animal species in the jungle are difficult to spot because they are nocturnal—active at

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

night and asleep during the day.

Before I started exploring the jungle, I had no idea so much goes on at night! In fact [*remove Bible from backpack*], that makes me think of the Bible story I want to share with you today. One particularly interesting thing happened at night when a boy named Samuel was in his bed.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Before we hear our Bible story, I want to announce our big picture question. This question helps us think about the bigger picture of the Bible—God’s plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus. Our big picture question is, *Is anything or anyone greater than God?* Think about that. Now listen to the answer: *No, God is greater than everything and everyone.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

•Giant Timeline

LEADER • At the time of our Bible story today, God’s people were ruled by judges. You might remember that after the Israelites left Egypt, a man named Moses led them toward the promised land. But the people sinned by not trusting God. The consequence for their sin was that God would not allow them to enter the promised land. Their children would enter instead. Moses died, and Joshua became the people’s leader. He led them into the promised land. But when Joshua died, the people ignored God and forgot about Him. God provided new leaders called

judges to lead the people.

Today's Bible story is called "Hannah and Samuel." Samuel was the last judge to lead Israel.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1–3. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Hannah and Samuel."

LEADER • Hannah prayed and asked God to give her a son.

She promised to dedicate him to the Lord. Did God answer Hannah's prayer? (*Yes!*) What was the name of Hannah's baby? (*Samuel*) God had a plan for Samuel.

God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to the tabernacle. Samuel stayed with Eli the priest and served the Lord. I wonder what it was like to live at the tabernacle! Hannah visited Samuel every year, and God gave Hannah more children. The Bible says Samuel grew up and followed God, and God was happy with him.

What did Samuel hear one night as he was resting? [*Allow responses.*] Had Eli called him? (*No.*) Who was calling Samuel? (*God*) The next time Samuel heard the voice, what did Samuel say? ("*Speak, for Your servant is listening.*")

God spoke to Samuel and gave him a message. Was God's message good news or bad news? [*Allow kids to respond.*] It was bad news! God was going to judge Eli's family because Eli's sons did not listen to Eli or obey God. Have you ever had to tell someone bad news? Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the message from God, but he told Eli everything.

- Bibles
- "Hannah and Samuel" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Christ connection

LEADER • Samuel used God’s words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God’s plan and showed what God is like. Before we follow Jesus, we do whatever seems right to us. God has a good plan for us to know and love Him. Jesus died on the cross to bring us back to God so we can have forgiveness and life forever with Him.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 17 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 10, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how God speaks to us today. Guide them to discuss their favorite ways, times, or places to read the Bible.

• “Unit 10, Session 1” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Explain that you are expecting important phone calls. Invite kids to listen in on your conversation. Allow them to guess whom they think you might be talking to. Pretend to answer your phone and use the script provided.

• “Who’s Calling? Script” printable
• cell phone

LEADER • It might be hard to believe, but many people living in small villages hidden in the Amazon Jungle of South America do not have cell phones, tablets, or computers. In fact, they have little to no contact with anyone outside of their villages. Because of this, many people living in these remote villages have also not heard the name of Jesus.

Missionaries and Christians workers are developing plans to reach these people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let’s ask God to help believers reach these people so they may know Him! [*Pray.*]

- Key Passage Poster
- “There Is No One Like You” song

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Jeremiah 10:6.

LEADER • This verse was written by the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah shared God’s message to the people of Israel. Jeremiah reminded them that no king, idol, or wise man is like God. God rules over every nation and deserves respect. He is great and powerful. Let’s sing a song to help us remember these words. Lead boys and girls in singing the song “There Is No One Like You.”

Sing (4 minutes)

- “King of Kings” song

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 119:169-170.

LEADER • Like God heard Hannah when she prayed to Him, God hears us when we pray. God has a good plan, and He always keeps His promises. ***Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.***

Sing together “King of Kings.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord, thank You for Your Word. We praise You for Your faithfulness. You blessed Elkanah and Hannah with a son, and You used Samuel as part of Your plan. God, we pray these words that Hannah prayed to You: “There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one besides you! And there is no rock like our God” (1 Sam. 2:2). We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Hannah and Samuel

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

STORY POINT: God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 10:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- large gift bags or paper grocery bags
- paper
- marker
- tape

Before the session, write the key passage and reference on separate pieces of paper, one phrase per page. Use fewer pages than kids in your group. Attach the pages to the outside of large gift bags—one page per bag—so the words are right-side up when the bag is turned upside-down.

Direct kids to sit in a circle. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading Jeremiah 10:6 aloud together. Distribute the prepared bags to kids sitting next to one another and instruct them to put the gift bags over their heads in the correct order. Call for the rest of the group to read the key passage together.

Then allow kids to choose which bag you will remove. Challenge them to say the key passage again, supplying the missing words. Remove another bag each round until kids recite the key passage from memory.

SAY • Great job! You'll have Jeremiah 10:6 memorized in no time. This key passage is similar to our big picture question and answer. Let's say the question and answer together. ***Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.***

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 1. Explain that the Book of 1 Samuel begins with Israel's history from the time of the judges. Point out that 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament. It is the fourth book of Old Testament History.

SAY • The first story is about Hannah, who prayed and asked God for a child. God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son, Samuel. Hannah dedicated Samuel to God, and she took him to Eli the priest so he could learn to serve God. [*Point to the area of Shiloh (G5), north of Jerusalem, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map.*] One night, **God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.**

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 3:10. Then ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. How does God speak to us today? *Remind kids that God spoke directly to Samuel and to many others in the Bible. Guide them to recognize that the Bible is the Word of God. God tells us everything we need to know about Him through His Word.*
(Option: Choose a kid to read 2 Tim. 3:16-17.)
2. What message do we have to share with the world? *Lead kids to review the gospel. Emphasize the bad news of sin and the good news of the Savior. Point out that God calls all believers to share the good news about Jesus with the world.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 12:4.)
3. Have you ever been afraid to share the gospel? Why or why not? *Allow kids to share their experiences. Point out that Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. We might feel afraid to share God's message about*

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Story Point Poster
• Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Jesus when we fear other people. Assure kids that God is with us. Everyone needs a chance to know and love God.
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 1:10-12.)

LOW PREP

- plastic cups, 4
- permanent marker
- large marbles, 10

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

- "Prayer Cards" printable
- heavyweight paper
- scissors
- hole punches
- 1-inch binder rings, 1 per kid
- clear contact plastic (optional)

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Lost and found

Number four plastic cups from 1–4 and place them on a table at the front of the room. Hide nine large marbles around the room. Keep the tenth marble hidden with you.

Form four teams of kids. Number each team from 1–4. Announce that there are 10 marbles hidden in the room. Teams will search for the marbles. When a player finds a marble, she must put it in her team's cup at the front of the room. The team who finds the most marbles wins. Once kids find nine marbles, share that there is still one marble left to find. After some time, reveal that you have had the last marble the whole time!

SAY • Many people live in villages hidden in the Amazon Jungle. Some people are very hard to find, but just like I knew where the last marble was, God knows where these people live and He wants them to know Him and His power. God is helping missionaries take the gospel to them.

OPTION 2: Make prayer cards

Print the prayer cards on heavyweight paper. Provide one set per kid. To protect the cards from wear and tear, you may choose to laminate them or seal them between two sheets of clear contact plastic.

Instruct kids to cut out the prayer cards and use a hole punch to punch a hole in the top left corner of each card. Give each kid a 1-inch binder ring to insert through the

holes of the cards. Read through the cards and encourage kids to keep their prayer cards at home or in their backpack as a tool to help them when they pray. Kids can flip through the cards and use the prompts for what to pray about.

SAY • God hears us when we pray. God heard Hannah and answered her prayer by giving her a son. **God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.** God might not answer our prayers right away or in the way we expect, but we can trust God because He is good and His plan for us is good.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for His Word. Praise Him for hearing us when we pray and giving us everything we need. Ask God to give kids open hearts and ears that listen for His guidance through the Holy Spirit.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Samuel's Story" on the activity page. Kids should use the words from the word list to fill in the blanks and complete Samuel's story.

• pencils
• Journal Page
• "Samuel's Story" activity page,
1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.