

Story Time - Read the story to the children

Lesson 70: HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1:1-19

Elkanah lived in Ramah, a town in the hill country of Ephraim. His great-great-grandfather was Zuph, so Elkanah was a member of the Zuph clan of the Ephraim tribe. Elkanah's father was Jeroham, his grandfather was Elihu, and his great-grandfather was Tohu. Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Although Peninnah had children, Hannah did not have any. Once a year Elkanah traveled from his hometown to Shiloh, where he worshiped the LORD of Hosts and offered sacrifices. Eli was the LORD's priest there, and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas served with him as priests. Whenever Elkanah offered a sacrifice, he gave some of the meat to Peninnah and some to each of her sons and daughters. But he gave Hannah even more, because he loved Hannah very much, even though the LORD had kept her from having children of her own. Peninnah liked to make Hannah feel bad about not having any children, especially when the family went to the house of the LORD each year. One day, Elkanah was there offering a sacrifice, when Hannah began crying and refused to eat. So Elkanah asked, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why won't you eat? Why do you feel so bad? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" When the sacrifice had been offered, and they had eaten the meal, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli was sitting in his chair near the door to the place of worship. Hannah was brokenhearted and was crying as she prayed, "LORD of Hosts, I am your servant, but I am so miserable! Please let me have a son. I will give him to you for as long as he lives, and his hair will never be cut." Hannah prayed silently to the LORD for a long time. You couldn't hear her voice, but her lips were moving, and Eli thought she was drunk. "How long are you going to stay drunk?" he asked. "Sober up!"

"Sir, please don't think I'm no good!" Hannah answered. "I'm not drunk, and I haven't been drinking anything at all. But I do feel miserable and terribly upset. I've been praying all this time, telling the LORD about my problems." Eli replied, "You may go home now and stop worrying. I'm sure the God of Israel will answer your prayer." "Sir, thank you for being so kind to me," Hannah said. Then she left, and after eating something, she felt much better. Elkanah and his family got up early the next morning and worshiped the LORD. Then they went back home to Ramah. Later the LORD blessed Elkanah and Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.

70. HANNAH
(1 SAMUEL 1:1-19)



Hannah was brokenhearted and was crying as she prayed.
1 SAMUEL 1:10

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MEMORY VERSE:

"Hannah was brokenhearted and was crying as she prayed."

1 SAMUEL 1:10

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Hannah was sad because she couldn't have any children.
TRUE or FALSE
2. When Hannah prayed, she prayed so loudly that Eli the priest thought that she was drunk. TRUE or FALSE
3. Hannah told Eli that she wasn't drunk, but she was very sad and upset and was praying to the LORD. TRUE or FALSE
4. Eli told Hannah to get out of there before he threw her out.
TRUE or FALSE
5. Hannah felt better after she left and ate. TRUE or FALSE
6. Elkanah loved Hannah very much. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did Elkanah's other wife treat Hannah very nice? Was she mean to her?
2. What did Hannah want from the LORD? Was it a son?
3. What did Hannah promise the LORD if He let her have a son? Was it that she would give him to the LORD all the days of his life?
4. What was the priest's name? Was it Eli?
5. Do you think the LORD remembered Hannah's prayers?

Lesson 70
HANNAH
Act it out!

Divide the children up, pick one child to be Hannah, one to be Eli, one to be Elkinah, and one to be Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife.

The rest of the children can be Elkinah's other children and some other people at the temple praying.

Have Elkinah, Peninnah and Hannah and the children go up to the 'temple'.

Let Eli be standing at the door of the 'temple', waiting.

Let Elkinah offer a lamb for a sacrifice to Eli the priest, then let Eli turn around and put the lamb on an 'altar' and pray to the LORD by lifting up his hands, saying "Oh, LORD, bless this man and his family"

Then let Eli give some of the roasted lamb meat back to Elkinah, and have Elkinah give food to his family, and have him give double to Hannah (because he loves her very much).

Let Hannah refuse to eat, because she is sad.

Elkinah: "Hannah, why are you so sad? Am I not worth more to you than ten sons?"

Hannah: "I'm going inside to pray to the LORD."

Let Hannah go inside, and look up, praying silently to the LORD, only moving her lips.

Have Eli go over to Hannah and say, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Sober up!!!"

Hannah: "But sir, I'm not drunk, and I haven't even drank anything. I am sad and have been praying to the LORD and telling Him all my problems."

Eli: "You may go home now and stop worrying. I'm sure the LORD will answer your prayers."

Hannah: (smiling now) – "Thank you, sir! I will!"

Then have Elkinah, Peninnah, Hannah and the children all leave!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY/CRAFT

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.

