Preschool–Grade 6

Hannah's Prayer

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God hears my prayers.
Bible passage: 1 Samuel 1–2. Read 1 Samuel 1:1–2:21 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "For this child I prayed" *1 Samuel 1:27 (KJV).*
You need: a Bible, a doll or a small rolled-up blanket to be baby Samuel, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have one: a small child's coat or sweater.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 1.

1. Opening game: Quiet Lips (5 minutes)

Move your lips with no sound: "hi," "I love you," "thank you." The kids guess what you said. Let a few kids take a turn. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a woman who prayed so quietly that only her lips moved. And God heard her!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 1. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Hannah had no children. She was very sad. She cried (1 Samuel 1:2, 1:7). *(Rub your eyes.)*
Hannah went to the house of the LORD. She prayed (1:9–10). *(Fold your hands.)*
She asked God for a baby boy (1:11). *(Rock your arms like a baby.)*
Her lips moved, but no one heard her voice (1:13). *(Move your lips with no sound.)*
Say it with me: "God hears me!"
Eli the priest said, "Go in peace" (1:17). *(Wave.)*
God remembered Hannah. She had a baby boy (1:19–20). *(Hold up the doll.)*
She named him Samuel (1:20). **Say it with me: "Samuel!"**
Hannah said thank you to God (2:1). *(Hands on your heart, then lift them up.)*
Samuel lived at the house of the LORD. He helped Eli serve God (2:11). *(Fold your hands.)*
Every year Hannah made Samuel a little coat (2:19). *(Pretend to put on a coat.)*
Samuel grew and grew (2:26). *(Crouch down low, then stand up tall.)*
Say it with me: "Thank You, God!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Hannah ask God for? *(A baby boy, 1 Samuel 1:11)*
2. Did God hear Hannah? *(Yes! He gave her a baby, Samuel, 1:19–20)*
3. What did Hannah make for Samuel every year? *(A little coat, 2:19)*

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4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Hannah said, 'For this child I prayed.' She asked God for Samuel." Teach the motion: rock your arms like you are holding a baby on "For this child," then fold your hands on "I prayed." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Samuel 1:27" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God hears you when you pray! God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: A Coat for Samuel (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a little coat for Samuel, and let them color it any colors they like. While they color, ask: "Who made Samuel a little coat? Who hears us when we pray?" Kids who finish early can take turns rocking baby Samuel.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for hearing me.
Thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child hold baby Samuel. If they get wiggly, do the "grew and grew" motion again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks why Hannah left Samuel at the house of the LORD: answer simply. Hannah promised God, and she kept her promise (1:11, 1:28). Samuel helped Eli serve God, and Hannah came to see him every year with a little coat (2:19).

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