

U N I T O N E

Going to God's House

Lesson 1

Praying in God's House



Building on last week's Bible Truth: Last quarter your children learned about our caring Lord. This week they will learn that He cares by hearing and answering prayer.

LESSON 1

Overview

Scripture

Hannah prays for a son—1 Samuel 1:1-20

Bible Truth

God heard and answered Hannah's prayer.

Life Response Aim

To want to pray to God.

Bible Verse

"Pray unto me."

Jeremiah 29:12, KJV

"Pray to me."

Jeremiah 29:12, NIV

FOCUS

Learning about Prayer

DISCOVER

Praying in God's House

RESPOND

Helping Children Pray

Materials

Focus

- Bible Picture 1, *Teaching Resources*; pictures of praying people
- Bible; children's books about prayer
- Puzzles about going to church, praying at bedtime and before meals

Discover

- Puppet
- Sheets 1-4, *Teaching Resources*; Bible Picture 1, *Teaching Resources*
- Story Reminder 1 from *Handwork*; glue

Respond

- *Bible Life Student Guide*, pages 3-4; crayons
- Attendance Stickers (optional)
- *Pupil Bible Picture* take-home card for Lesson 1, September Parent Tips card

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found in *Teaching Resources* on the songsheets and the *Let's Sing Motions 'n Music* CD or both.

Preparing Your Heart to Teach

READ THESE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

- **A TIME OF TRIAL (1 SAM. 1:1-8):** Hannah's love was unfulfilled; she had no children. Worse yet, she was mocked in her time of sorrow. How would you have responded?
- **A TIME OF PRAYER (vv. 9-16):** Even when Hannah turned to the Lord, Eli rebuked her. Can you remember a time when your good intentions were misinterpreted?
- **A TIME OF JOY (vv. 17-20):** But God is so faithful. What specific incident can you point to in your life that shows God's faithfulness?

Learning about Prayer

To introduce your children to this lesson, use any of the following activity options at learning centers.

L E A R N I N G C E N T E R S

WHO CAN PRAY?

BULLETIN BOARD CENTER



Display *Bible Picture 1*, *Teaching Resources*, “Hannah Thanking God,” at the children’s eye level. Place any other pictures of people praying from your files by the picture of Hannah praying.

Hannah is praying (talking) **to God.**

As the children come to look at the pictures, talk with them about what they see.

What are the people in this picture doing? Point to it. **Yes, they are praying. Praying is talking to God. What do you think they are saying to God? Maybe they are saying, “Dear Lord, we love You.”**

Will you pray those words with me? Do you see anyone else who is praying? Let the children point to each picture.

Anyone who loves God can talk (pray) **to Him.** Point to other pictures.

What is the boy in this picture doing? Yes, he is talking to God. That’s praying. He’s praying, isn’t he? Can you say that? He’s praying. Let child respond.

Do you see someone else who is praying? Good! Continue similarly with other children who are learning these new words.

GOD’S BOOK TELLS US TO PRAY

READING CENTER



Place the open Bible on a special table with a nice cloth on it, and have other books displayed interestingly around it. Since the Bible is a special book, make the area where you place it look special.

Point to the Bible. **The Bible is a very special book. It tells us that God says that He will hear us when we pray to Him. God and His Son, Jesus, can hear us pray. Isn’t it wonderful that we can talk to God and He hears us?**



Read one of the books on prayer. **We can talk to God. What would you like to say to God?** Let the children pray. Do not force any child who doesn’t seem ready.

WHERE CAN WE PRAY?

CREATIVE PLAY CENTER



Let the children put together simple puzzles about going to church and praying at bedtime and meals. Use these puzzles to prompt conversation with your children regarding where we can pray and what we can pray about.

We can pray anywhere and anytime. Isn’t it wonderful to know that God hears us when we pray, no matter where we are?

You can discover if the children experience family prayers at mealtime and bedtime. Encourage those who do and make suggestions for those who do not.



Then your class will enjoy this song to the tune of “Old MacDonald.”

God can hear me where I am. Thank You, God, for prayer. He is with me everywhere. Thank You, God, for prayer.

I can pray here. You can pray there. We can pray everywhere, Knowing God is with us.


God can hear me where I am. Thank You, God, for prayer.




Praying in God's House

This week you'll reveal the Bible Truth through a puzzle, puppet conversation, flannelboard story, and a Story Reminder.

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

 Take your puppet and carry it with you as you move among the children at the centers. Use it to encourage the children to pick up, put away their toys, and join you as you walk around the room.

 Sing the first stanza of "Will You Come?" Let team members and children respond, "Yes, we'll come and walk . . ." etc. Then sing "Will you come and sit with me . . . ?" Finally, sing "Will you come and pray with me?"

Give the new or younger children time to adjust and feel at home in your situation. Team members can supervise those who don't join the group. Some children may prefer to play quietly or observe from a distance. Don't force them; rather, join them and help them listen.


Put the puppet out of sight so it will not be seen during the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY

If you need a shorter version for younger children, tell the story as found on the take-home card from *Pupil Bible Pictures*.



Teaching Resources, Sheets 1-4

 Use the figures from Sheets 1-4, *Teaching Resources*.

Because you want the children to know that these stories come from the Bible, hold it in your hand or on your lap while you tell (not read) the story. **It's time to open our Bibles.**

Do you have a little baby brother or sister in your home? We love babies very much, don't we? Let's listen to a Bible story about a mother and her baby.

This lady's name was Hannah. [*Place sad Hannah (1c) on flannelboard.*] **Hannah loved God, but she was very sad. Can you guess why she looks so sad?** [*Point to sad Hannah's face.*] **Hannah wanted to be a mother. She didn't have any children of her own. That's why she felt sad.**

Hannah loved God very much. She thought about how God says, "Pray to Me, and I will hear you." She thought, "I'll ask God for a baby boy. So one day Hannah went to God's house. [*Place two pillars (1a and b) for the tabernacle scene.*]

There at God's house, Hannah prayed a special prayer to God. [*Lay aside sad Hannah and place her kneeling figure (3b).*]


She prayed, "O God, if You will give me a baby boy, I will let him be a helper in Your house as soon as he is big enough."

Someone saw Hannah praying. It was old Eli, the priest in God's house. [*Place Eli (3a).*] **When Eli knew that Hannah was praying for something special, he said, "Be glad, Hannah, for God will answer your prayer."**

Hannah wasn't sad anymore. [*Replace kneeling Hannah with happy Hannah (2e) figure. Remove the tabernacle scene. Place the Bible-time house (4) with Hannah beside it.*]


Hannah went home happy. She sang and sang as she did her housework. She was sure God would give her the baby boy she had asked for.

And God did answer Hannah's prayer. Just see what God gave Hannah. [*Hold up the baby Samuel (3c).*] **Why, it's a fine baby boy. How happy Hannah was then! She named her new baby Samuel.** [*Place the new baby in Hannah's arms.*]

 **Hannah hugged her dear baby. Hannah had asked God for Samuel, and God had answered her prayer. She probably thanked God again and again for her baby boy, Samuel.** [*Point to Bible Picture 1.*] **Here's our picture of Hannah holding baby Samuel and thanking God for hearing her prayer.**

God says, if we will pray to Him, He will hear us. God heard Hannah's prayer, and He will hear our prayers too.

PRAYING HANNAH


 This is a good time to have the children go to tables so they can enjoy their Story Reminders in small groups.

Follow the instructions on the inside front cover of *Handwork* for making Story Reminder 1. Give each child a Story Reminder.




Story Reminder 1, Handwork

Hold up the Hannah praying side. **Here is Hannah. Why does she look so sad? Hannah was sad because she didn't have a baby. What did she do about it? Hannah prayed and asked God to give her a baby boy. Did God answer Hannah's prayer?** [*Turn figure to other side.*] **Yes. He gave her a baby boy. What did Hannah name her baby? She named him Samuel. Here's Hannah holding baby Samuel.** The children will enjoy turning the picture from side to side.

 **Let's "read" the words on your Story Reminder. Can you say the words with me? Let's pray right now and thank God for listening to us.**

WE PRAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Young twos and threes cannot sit quietly for a long time. Their undeveloped muscles become tired and cramped unless they can move frequently. So plan activities that call for various kinds of action and intersperse them with inactive periods so boys and girls will not become restless.

 Ask the children to stand up and sing with you, "I'm Getting Ready for Sunday School." Then sing these words to the same tune: "I am so glad God hears my prayers." Add stanzas that call for large-muscle motions. Encourage the children to do the motions while you sing. They may not be quite ready to do two things at once, but they will enjoy doing the motions.

Helping Children Pray

If your children have been in small groups, use an established signal to let them know it's time to come together in a large group.

Now your children will want to do something about what they've learned. You'll sing and work in the student guides.

WE THANK GOD



Sing the second stanza of "Thank You Prayer Song." Then sing these words to the same tune: "Thank You, God, for answered prayer."

HANNAH THANKS GOD



This is a good time to have children go back to tables so they can enjoy their student guides in small groups. During this time you can concentrate on the Life Response Aim by helping your children pray in class. Also suggest specific times for prayer at home—morning, bedtime, meals, etc.

What happy times we have at Sunday School, hearing stories from God's Book, the Bible.

Hold up your Bible. **Someday you will be able to read your own Bible. But right now, you can have your very own book with pretty Bible pictures in it, as well as pictures of children your age. You'll have fun putting stickers on the pages of your book.**



Give each child a copy of the *Bible Life Student*

Guide open to page 3, or pages 3–4 if you have separated the pages. Each child may put an attendance sticker on the inside back cover of the book. This may be done each week.

Who is the happy lady in this picture? Yes—Hannah! What is the name of her baby boy? That's right—Samuel. What is Hannah doing? Yes, she's thanking God for her new baby

Samuel. Allow the children time to color page 3. Turn to page 4. **Dan has not been happy. Listen and we'll find out why.** Read the story. **Where do you think Dan's ball was?**

You can place the ball sticker wherever you think he found it. Children can place the sticker of the ball from the center page of their guides onto page 4. They can also color this page. **Dan was glad that God answered his prayer.**



In the *Pupil Bible Pictures* set each quarter, you'll find letters to parents. These may be distributed on the first Sunday of each month. Give each child today's take-home card from *Pupil Bible Pictures* and the September Parent Tips card. The Parent Tips card introduces parents to your program, gives them an overview of the September lessons, and gives them tools to help them get involved in their child's spiritual life.

LINK TO CHURCH TIME®

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

Thanking God and Praying for Missionaries

Your twos and threes will explore situations that will help remind them of things for which they can be thankful and of people for whom they can pray, especially missionaries.

God's Gift to Hannah

God answered Hannah's prayer by giving her a baby boy. Your children will "help" Hannah care for Samuel as an additional reminder that God answers prayer.

Suggested Schedule:

Transition: 25–30 minutes

Preparing Their Hearts: 15 minutes

Worship and Story Time: 20 minutes

Hands-to-Hearts Activities: 10–15 minutes

Good-bye Time: Until parents arrive

PRAYING AND THANKING GOD

Use this activity at a learning center. Teachers could make flash cards by pasting pictures of objects such as food, home, church, car, family, sick person in bed, etc., on pieces of colored paper. Glue one picture on each piece of paper. These visuals will stimulate ideas of things children might be thankful for, as well as people to pray about.

MAKING PRAYER SILHOUETTES

Make praying hands silhouettes to be cut out of dark-colored paper and glued on light-colored paper.

Draw around the right hand of each child on dark-blue or black paper. The fingers should be closed with the thumb somewhat extended. Cut out the hand silhouettes and paste them on 6" x 9" half-sheets of light-colored paper.

GIVING OFFERINGS

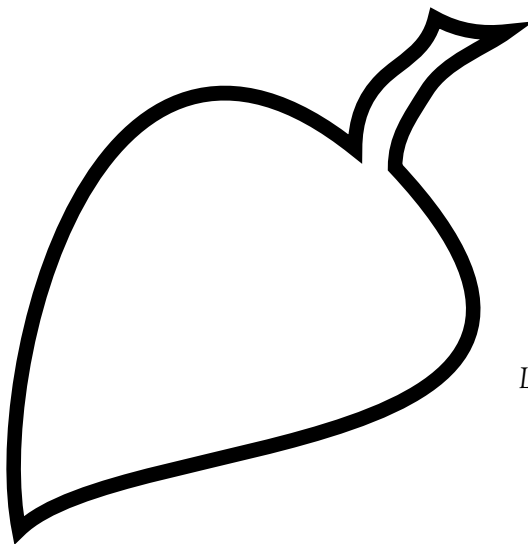
Have the children put their offering coins into an attractive container as they arrive. A church bank would be appropriate for the next three months.

As a child comes to the bank to drop in a coin, explain that the money will help buy things your room needs. Mention some specific things such as books, pictures, etc. Sing "Giving" during the offering time each week.

Pin a name tag on every child if there are some students you don't know. Take advantage of the "squirrel" name tags on Sheet 6, *Handwork*. If you know the names of all your students, you may want to let them hang the squirrels on a bulletin board fall scene or make a room border.

BIRTHDAY TREE

Birthdays are important to preschoolers. Celebrate this special occasion by letting the birthday child add a leaf to the birthday tree while the children sing "Happy Birthday." Use Sheet 14b, *Teaching Resources*, and the leaf pattern on this page for a birthday tree poster. While you are singing, attach a birthday badge (Sheet 3, *Handwork*) to the child's clothing with a small safety pin or masking tape. Some children are happier when the badges are put on lengths of soft yarn and hung around their necks. Keep the yarn short so the badge doesn't interfere with a child's play. Such recognition is very satisfying and lets the children know that you appreciate them. Consider having a birthday snack, *being aware of any food allergies* the children may have.



Leaf pattern for Birthday Tree