

GOD GIVES HANNAH A BABY

THEME FOR UNIT 1: God Gives Us Families

UNIT BIBLE WORDS: John 13:34

BIBLE BASIS

Hannah and her husband have baby Samuel (1 Sam. 1:1-23).

BIBLE TRUTH

It is God's plan to give us families.

BIBLE WORDS

Love one another. John 13:34.

LESSON AIM

Students will begin to learn that families come from God.

LESSON OVERVIEW

1 LIFE NEED (3–5 minutes)

- ∨ Have Woolly Lamb help the class think about ways families love their children



Materials: Fall Attendance Chart, DisKit and CD player, “Woolly Lamb Puppet” Teaching Aid
Optional: Make a cloth wooly puppet using the reproducible pattern on the back of the attendance chart.

2 BIBLE LEARNING (10–15 minutes)

- ∨ Teach with large pictures the Bible story about Hannah, Elkanah, and the baby God gave them—Samuel
- ∨ Review the Bible story with an action poem and a take-home Bible story picture card



Materials: Bible; “God Gives Hannah a Baby” Teaching Aid for Lesson 1; *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1;
Optional—doll

3 BIBLE APPLICATION (10 minutes)

- ∨ Practice the Bible Words with a rhyme
- ∨ Make a craft picture of baby Samuel



Materials: *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 1, crayons, construction paper, glue; Optional—cloth scraps, baby blanket

4 LIFE RESPONSE (10 minutes)

- ∨ Teach with pictures on the take-home lesson card about how God gives children loving families today
- ∨ Do Closing Activities



Materials: *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1, Parent Card A
Optional Lesson Activities: See activities throughout the lesson for materials needed.



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Samuel's story begins in the hill country of Ephraim (EE-fray-m) at a place called Ramathaim (RAY-mah-THAY-m), near Shiloh. For about 300 years the Old Testament tabernacle was set up at Shiloh, so it became the worship center for Israel prior to Jerusalem (1 Sam. 1:3, 24; 4:3).

When one compares Zephaniah 1:1 with 1 Samuel 1:1, one can see that each verse traces the man being talked about back for four generations ("the son of" so-and-so is found four times). For Jewish people, family roots were very important.

Samuel's father, Elkanah, had two wives, which was common in early Bible times. In those days polygamy was tolerated under the law of Moses (Deut. 21:15-17). However, it was not God's original intention,

for as Jesus taught, it could cause great misery (Matt. 19:3-8).

The names of Elkanah's wives were Hannah and Peninnah. In the Bible, names often mean something special. The name "Hannah" means "grace." In 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah praises God for how He has "graced" her with His favor.

Hannah had been childless—a tragedy for women of that day. Because children are a blessing from God, the absence of children was sometimes considered a punishment for sin. Peninnah may have suggested this and used it to hurt Hannah.

Bible-time Jewish men were required by law (Deut. 16:16) to attend three sacred festivals annually ("year after year;" 1 Sam. 1:7). The three required annual feasts were Passover (or Unleavened Bread), Pentecost (or Weeks), and Tabernacles (or Booths).

While attending a feast in Shiloh,

the religious center of the nation at that time, Hannah left the feasting to pray at the tabernacle. She told God of her anguish over her childlessness. Hannah vowed that she would dedicate her child to the Lord's service (1 Sam. 1:11). Then she prayed, "May your servant find favor in your eyes" (vs. 18).

The priest, Eli, observed Hannah moving her lips without sound and reprimanded her for being drunk at the tabernacle. Hannah explained that she was not drunk but was praying because of her sorrow. When Hannah told him of her longing, she received his blessing.

Hannah conceived and a son was born. Hannah named her son Samuel, which means "asked of God" (see vs. 20). Samuel was a special gift from God—not only for his parents, but also for all of Israel. Samuel served as a prophet and anointed Saul as king, then David.

Understanding Your Students

This lesson deals with a much wanted and much loved baby. Your preschoolers need the security of knowing that they, too, are wanted and loved. They need to discover that they are a gift from God.

Each preschooler may have different issues depending on the care his or her family gives. We suggest in the Life Need section this week that the children interact with their friend Wooly. This lamb puppet from the teaching aids packet helps focus positively on families and care.

CLASSROOM TIPS

As you work with your children this week, here are more ways to help them feel secure and know that they are loved.

- ✓ Say the names of your students often to personalize the lesson for each child.
- ✓ Be aware of family situations so you can relate the lesson to each child. If Andre lives with Dad, point out that Andre and Dad are a family. If Kesha lives with her grandparents, explain that God gave her grandparents who could be her family, loving and caring for her.
- ✓ Point out that families show love in different ways. Some bring their children to Sunday school to learn about God's love; others teach them at home, and all want to hear what their child has learned.
- ✓ Mention similarities between Samuel's Bible-time family and your students' families.

BEFORE CLASS →

Kneel or pull up a low chair so you can look right at the children and give them a big smile as they arrive.

Welcome, Andre. I'm so glad to see you.

Any child who brought an offering may deposit it in your offering container right away, as you help them mark the attendance chart.

BIBLE LESSON

GETTING STARTED

If you wish, use the following activity for the children to do until everyone arrives.

As the children work and play, comment on how God has given them families to care for them.



Coloring: Before class, you will have removed the front and back cover from each child's Make-It/Take-It craft booklet. They are easily removed by folding the cover pages back with one hand while firmly holding the remainder of the inside pages and snapping the cover from the booklet. You will want to use the cover pages as a take-home folder to be sent home to parents. Permit children to color the picture of Jesus with the children. You may also let the children work on the house, page 3 of the Make-It/Take-It booklet.

WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

▽ Guide your children into worship with songs and a prayer. Begin this week to use the song "Love One Another" from the DisKit packet inside your Creative Teaching Aids. If your children are especially active you may want to use motions with the song.

▽ Thank God for families and their care. Remind your children to bow their heads and close their eyes, because that helps them think about God as they talk to Him. However, don't insist on a certain prayer posture. **Dear God, thank You for our families. We love our families. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

1

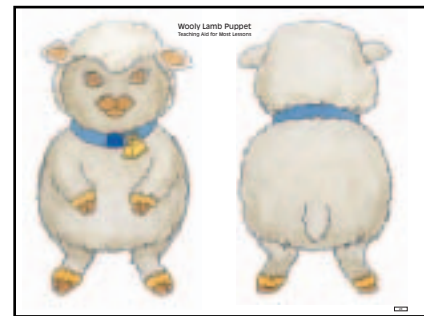
3-5 minutes



LIFE NEED

▽ **Objective:** Students will begin to

Prepare the "Woolly Lamb Puppet" Teaching Aid in advance by punching out the front and back and taping the top and sides in several places where indicated. To use Woolly, slip him over your hand. As an alternative, you may create a cloth "Woolly" using the reproducible pattern on the back of the Fall Attendance Chart. If desired, use it whenever the "Woolly Lamb" teaching aid is used. Woolly doesn't speak to the children directly, but whispers to you; then you tell the children what Woolly said.



Woolly Lamb Teaching Aid

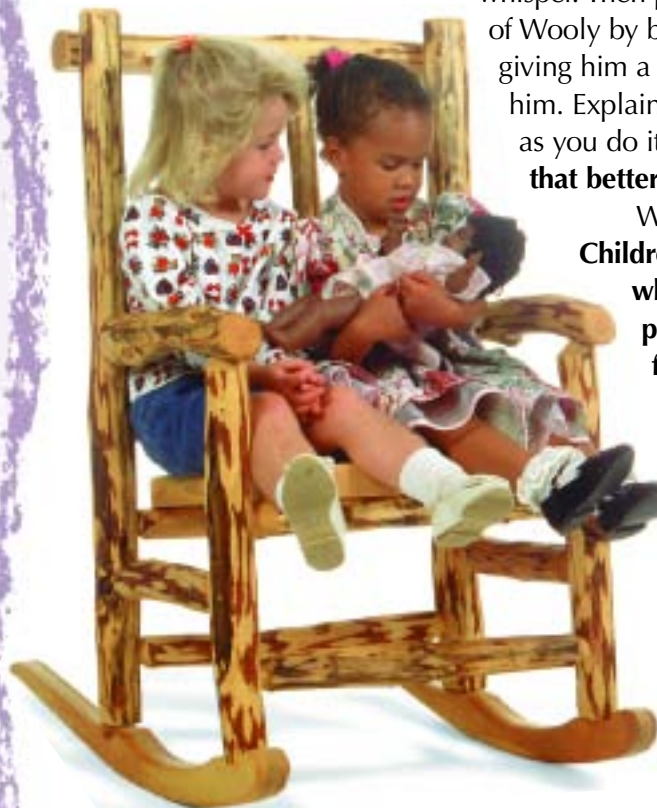
Spend a few minutes introducing Woolly and letting the children "pet" him.

Let's all say hello to Woolly. Woolly is a special part of our class. Woolly, these are my students. Each child is a gift from God. Have Woolly nod, then hold him to your ear as if you are listening.

Woolly wants us to help take care of him. Well, I would be glad to help. Have Woolly face you. **What should I do, Woolly?** Have Woolly whisper. Then pretend to take care of Woolly by brushing his wool, giving him a drink, and hugging him. Explain what you are doing as you do it. **There, Woolly, is that better?** Woolly nods.

Woolly whispers.

Children, Woolly wonders who are the different people who do things for you? Allow kids to answer. **Today we'll hear about a lady named Hannah who wanted a baby to love.**



2

10–15 minutes



BIBLE LEARNING

✓ **Objective:** Students will see, hear, and read about how God gave Samuel to his loving parents.

Show “God Gives Hannah a Baby” (Teaching Aid for Lesson 1) as directed in the story below. Have your Bible in sight and open to 1 Samuel. Suggestions are made in parentheses within the story for ways your students can imitate you as you pretend to care for a baby. After you tell the Bible Story below, you will also read aloud a review story found in *My Sunday Pictures*. You can encourage students to begin to learn to read the Word themselves with the Bible Story Review.

BIBLE STORY

(Show Teaching Aid for Lesson 1.) This is a woman named Hannah. (Point to Hannah.) This is her husband. (Point to her husband.) They loved each other very much. And they wanted to have this baby. (Point to baby Samuel.) God gave the baby boy to them. They named him Samuel. They loved him very much.

Every day Samuel’s mommy and daddy fed him. (Pretend to feed a doll.) And they gave him something healthy to drink. (Pretend to drink.) They made sure he had clothes to wear too. (Pretend to dress a baby.)

Samuel’s parents did some of the same things your parents do with you. They might have held Samuel close and hugged him often. (Have children hug selves.) They probably talked to him a lot. They taught him all about God.



Teaching Aid for Lesson 1

Samuel’s parents were happy that God gave them a baby. So they took good care of little Samuel.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Use the following poem and actions to review how Samuel’s parents cared for him. Do the actions slowly and encourage your children to repeat them with you.

- Hannah would feed the baby,**
(Raise hand to mouth.)
- Wash the baby,**
(Rub hands on face and tummy.)
- Sing him a song.**
(Clap hands on “sing,” “him,” and “song.”)
- Then she’d rock the baby,**
- Rock the baby, all day long.**
(Move arms in rocking motion.)

After your students have had a chance to get involved with the Bible story through action, help them review the story verbally with *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1. Distribute the take-home cards to the class and read the simple story together slowly. At this age, most preschoolers will only be able to “read” the pictures.

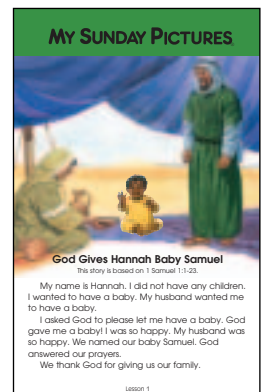
My name is Hannah. I did not have any children. I wanted to have a baby. My husband wanted me to have a baby.

I asked God to please let me have a baby. God gave me a baby! I was so happy. My husband was so happy. We named our baby Samuel. God answered our prayers.

We thank God for giving us our family.

Now, help children review the story verbally:
What made Hannah and her husband happy?
(God gave baby Samuel to their family.)

God gave you to your family. He loves you. He wants your family to take good care of you.



My Sunday Pictures Lesson 1 (front)

3

10 minutes



BIBLE APPLICATION

▼ **Objective:** Students will practice Bible Words and make a craft to remember the Bible Truth.

BIBLE WORDS

As you know, preschoolers need to change activities frequently. They learn more from the movement and repetition of a rhyme than they will by being pressured to memorize a stand-alone verse.

Even if less social children only watch their classmates do the actions, they are learning and will eventually take part.

Children are a gift from God,

(Join arms for a cradle.)

God gave us to parents and others.

(Same action.)

God gave me to my family,

(Point to self.)

And we love one another.

(Hug self.)

You can add these lines or make up your own:

I can pray each and every day,

(Bow head; join hands to pray.)

Like my father and mother,

(Same action.)

I can pray for my family,

(Point to self.)

We can love one another.

(Hug self.)

There are some special words in our poem that come from the Bible. They are "Love one another." Say the Bible Words together several times, then do the action rhyme again.

HANDCRAFT

You will want to have removed Lesson 1 from each child's Make-It/Take-It before class.

It is God's plan to give us families. Let's make a picture of Hannah's baby, Samuel, to help you remember this. We can color the picture and add a blanket to keep the baby warm.

You may wish to bring a baby blanket for your students to feel. Talk about the soft blankets babies need to keep warm.

Each child can choose a crayon to color the picture. Provide small pieces of fabric or colorful paper for your children to glue over the blankets.

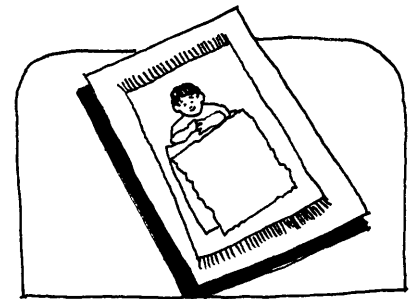
Talk about how children are a gift from God and that it is God's plan to give us families.

Hannah gave Samuel special care. What things did she do? (Fed him,

gave him milk to drink, gave him clothes to wear.)

Help your class recall things their families do for them. **Isn't God good to give us families who take care of us? Let's clap for the family God gave (Kesha).** *(Name and clap for each child's family.)*

Hang up your work when you go home today. Your family will love to see what you are learning in Sunday school. Right now, I want to tell you a story about another family and some children today. You can see this family on the other side of your *My Sunday Pictures* card.



Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 1

4

10 minutes



LIFE RESPONSE

✓ Objective: Students will show joy that God today gives children to their families.

PICTURE REVIEW

Just as Hannah loved baby Samuel, God wants your family to love you. Let's read together about this family and the children God gave them. The story is on your picture card. Distribute again *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1 with the present-day story. Help children focus on the correct side of the card by reading the title to the story and holding it up for them to see. **Does everybody see our story, "God Made the Family"?** The people are wearing pink T-shirts. There's a mommy and daddy and two children. The daddy is hugging his little boy. The mommy is holding her daughter's hand. (Do not be overly concerned if the children refer to the Bible Story side as you read the present-day story below.)

PRESENT-DAY STORY

God made this family. The daddy is Darrell. The mommy is Beverly. They love each other.

God gave the parents two children. (*Hold up two fingers.*) The boy is Tony. The girl is Lawanda. This family loves God. This family loves each other. They pray together.



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 1 (back)

God made all different kinds of families. God gave you your family. Love God. Love your family. Pray together. That is what God wants.

It is God's plan to give us families today, just like He gave families in Bible times.

God gave Hannah and her husband baby Samuel. They loved Samuel and took good care of him.

In our story, Tony and Lawanda are glad that their parents take good care of them.

Who takes care of you? Who is picking you up from Sunday school today? (Allow for answers.)

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

See that students have their handcraft picture of baby Samuel and *My Sunday Pictures* lesson card. Each child will also need Parent Card A. **This card is for your parents. Be sure to show it to them.**

Who did we learn about in our Bible story today? (Baby Samuel.) **We learned a lot about families, didn't we? Do you remember who gave us to our families?** (God.) **Families love us and take good care of us. They help us when we need help.**

Then show your students how to bow their heads as you say a short prayer. **Thank You, God, for giving us families. We love them, and we love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Show "Wooly Lamb Puppet" Teaching Aid as you wave good-bye to each child. **I am so glad you could come today. Can you wave good-bye to Wooly? Remember to thank God for your family this week. And love one another!**

Note: Children may bring a family snapshot for class next week.