


Praying in God's House


Lesson One

Unit 1: Going to God's House

Transition (25–30 minutes):

 **Snack Time:** Serve birthday cupcakes to help the children remember that Samuel's birth was an answer to prayer. You'll recognize your children's birthdays each week (see below). *Be aware of food allergies.*

Preparing Their Hearts (15 minutes):

 **Missionary Prayer Mural:** Your children will enjoy the opportunity to attach colorful pictures to a prayer mural. Before class tape or tack newsprint to the wall with the words "We can pray for Missionaries" written at the top. From catalogs or magazines cut pictures of items, food, and people from a variety of countries. If you have copies of pictures or prayer cards of missionaries whom your church supports, have those available as well.

OVERVIEW

Scripture:

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Bible Truth:

God hears us when we pray.

Life Response Aim:

To want to pray to God.


Bible Verse

Jeremiah 29:12

Materials Needed:


Cupcakes; mural pictures; figures from *Teaching Resources*, Copymaster 1, copied for each child; pieces of cloth; birthday stars

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs are found on the songsheets at the end of this manual or the *Let's Sing! and Motions 'n Music* CD or both.

 Your children will be able to relate particularly well to missionaries with young children. As the children place these pictures on the mural, talk about some differences in cultures around the world, such as the foods eaten, the mode of dress, etc. These visuals will also stimulate ideas of things the children can thank God for, as well as people to pray about. Take time to pray for your children and for your missionaries by name. Some of your children might enjoy praying for the missionaries' children. Then use an established signal to let the children know it's time to go to your story area and sing "Will You Come?"

Worship and Story Time (20 minutes):

Offering: Receive the children's offering money.

 **Bible Story:** Tell the story, using colorful Bible story figures from *Teaching Resources*.

Do you have a little baby brother or sister in your home? [*Let children who have baby siblings stand and tell about them.*] **We love babies very much, don't we? Let's listen to a Bible story about a mother and her baby. It's time to open our Bibles.**

There was a lady named Hannah, who loved God, but she was very sad. Can you guess why she was so sad? Hannah wanted to be a mother. She didn't have any children of her own. That's why she felt sad. [*Have children make sad faces.*]

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. There at God's house, Hannah prayed a special prayer to God.

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. 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. [*Have children smile happily for Hannah.*] **Hannah went home happy. She probably sang and sang as she did her work. 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. [*Have children pretend to cradle a baby.*] **Why, it's a fine baby boy. How happy Hannah was then! She named her new baby Samuel.**

Hannah hugged her dear baby. Hannah had asked God for Samuel, and God had answered her prayer. She thanked God for her dear baby, Samuel.

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

 **Worship in Song:** It is so good to know that God hears us when we pray. Let's sing a song that helps us remember that Hannah could talk to God and so can we. Sing the first verse of "In God's House." And why does God listen to boys, girls, and all the people who love Him? Because He loves us too! Let's sing a song that tells us that Jesus loves us. Sing "Jesus Loves Me."


Remembering the Bible Truth: Use this activity to teach the Bible words from Jeremiah 29:12 to your children. **Hannah prayed because God says** (Bible words). Point to yourself and then the children. **We pray because God says** (Bible words). After a few repetitions, let volunteers take turns reciting the verse. Help as needed. **Jesus told us in His Book, the Bible, that if we pray in His name, His Father, God, will hear us. Jesus wants us to pray because He loves us and wants what is best for us. How did God answer Hannah's prayer?** Each week you'll build on the truth that we come to church because Jesus loves us and we love Him.



 **Life Application:** This "Baby Samuel had . . ." fingerplay will help reinforce the truth that God hears and answers prayer. As you say each line, lead the children in pointing to those features (eyes, fingers, toes, etc.) on their own bodies.

**Baby Samuel had
Two big eyes to open and close,
Ten little fingers and ten little toes,
Two puffy cheeks so soft to touch,
Ten little curls on his head in a bunch,
Two little ears and one little nose,
Two little lips as sweet as a rose, and
Two little legs so cute and strong.
Hannah thanked God for Samuel all the day long.**


To further please your boys and girls and to help build their sense of security in parents' love, substitute the name of a boy or girl in your class—Big boy Blake or Big girl Sarah. And substitute Mommy, Daddy, or caregiver's name for Hannah. You can make this fingerplay so engrossing that the children will nearly burst with eagerness to hear their own names.


Hands-to-Hearts Arts and Crafts (10–15 minutes):


 **God's Gift to Hannah:** Give the children each a copy of Copymaster 1, Baby Samuel, and let them color the picture. For additional fun, let them glue pieces of cloth on their papers for a blanket to keep Baby Samuel warm. **Samuel was a special gift from God, and Hannah took very good care of her baby boy.**

  **Birthday Stars:** Birthdays are important to preschoolers. If you have time, celebrate this special occasion by letting the birthday children color paper stars that you have cut out and put their names on in advance. Put tape on the back of the stars and let the birthday children—the "stars"—tape them to their clothing or on a special birthday chart, as the rest of the children sing "Happy Birthday." **Samuel was God's gift to Hannah, and you are God's gift to your mom and dad** (or primary caregivers). **You are also a special gift to us!** Don't forget to pray for the birthday boy or girl.

Good-bye Time (until parents arrive):

 You will want to take the opportunity to pray with your children before they leave. If you have additional time, try this activity:

 **Hannah Prayed:** Have the children sit in a circle. Say, **Hannah prayed. Yes, she did. I will pray for _____.** Fill in the blank with something that some of your children have in common, such as **everyone wearing red.** Help the children with red on find it and have them come into the middle of the circle.

 Continue until all of the children are in the "middle," reminding them that we can pray for others. Repeat as time and interest allow; then close in prayer.