

Samuel - Promises Promises



Bright
Sparks

I G N I T E

DNA

Introduction

- ▶ Some of these resources are adapted from the energize.net.uk website and are used with permission.
- ▶ In this session we are going to be thinking about when Samuel was born and the promise his mother Hannah made.
- ▶ The session has a number of activities designed to be carried out together as a family and is suitable for all ages of children and young people.
- ▶ Any materials you need should be found in your house and should not require you to go anywhere.
- ▶ Enjoy, and God bless you as you use these resources at home.
- ▶ So let's begin as we always do....Hands up for news time!

NEWS TIME!



SHARE YOUR NEWS
OF THE WEEK



WHAT DO YOU WANT
TO THANK GOD FOR?



HOW HAS SOMEONE
HELPED YOU?



Game - Rock, paper, scissors...or is it!?!

- ▶ This game is a variation on the classic “rock, paper, scissors” but instead you have “happy face, sad face, silly face”!
- ▶ The rules:
 - ▶ Take turns in pairs to play
 - ▶ Count down 3,2,1 and then pull a happy face, sad face, or silly face.
 - ▶ Happy face beats sad face, sad face beats silly face, and silly face beats happy face!
 - ▶ Best of 3 wins and then take turns with different pairs.

Bible Story - Samuel is born

- ▶ Today's Bible story is from the book 1 Samuel, which is found in the Old Testament in the Bible - that's the part before Jesus was born. If you have a Bible, try and find 1 Samuel or a story about Samuel. Remember you can use the contents page to help you.
- ▶ The story is about when Samuel was born and about the promise his mother, Hannah, makes before he is born.
- ▶ We're going to be thinking about how easy or difficult Hannah would have found the situation in each part of the story.
- ▶ On your floor, mark a line (or imaginary line using two points as a start and end). One end of the line is "very easy" and the other end of the line is "very difficult".
- ▶ For each part of the story stand along the line for how you think Hannah found the situation - was it easy or difficult for her, or somewhere in between?

Bible Story - Samuel is born

Part 1:

Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Although Peninnah had children, Hannah did not have any.

Part 2:

Once a year, Elkanah traveled from his hometown to Shiloh, where he worshiped God and offered sacrifices. Eli was the LORD's priest there. 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 God had kept her from having children of her own.

Part 3:

Peninnah liked to make Hannah feel miserable about not having any children, especially when the family went to the house of the Lord each year.

Bible Story - Samuel is born

Part 4:

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 All-Powerful, 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.”

Part 5:

Hannah prayed silently to the LORD for a long time. 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. But I do feel miserable and terribly upset. I’ve been praying all this time, telling the LORD about my problems.”

Part 6:

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.

Bible Story - Samuel is born

Part 7:

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 with a son. She named him Samuel because she had asked the LORD for him.

Part 8:

The next time Elkanah and his family went to offer their yearly sacrifice, he took along a gift that he had promised to give to the LORD. But Hannah stayed home, because she had told Elkanah, “Samuel and I won’t go until he’s old enough for me to stop nursing him. Then I’ll give him to the LORD, and he can stay there at Shiloh for the rest of his life.” “You know what’s best,” Elkanah said. “Stay here until it’s time to stop nursing him. I’m sure the LORD will help you do what you have promised.” Hannah did not go to Shiloh until she stopped nursing Samuel.

Part 9:

When it was the time of year to go to Shiloh again, Hannah and Elkanah took Samuel to the LORD’s house. They brought along a three-year-old bull, a twenty-pound sack of flour, and a clay jar full of wine. Hannah and Elkanah offered the bull as a sacrifice, then brought the little boy to Eli. “Sir,” Hannah said, “a few years ago I stood here beside you and asked the LORD to give me a child. Here he is! The LORD gave me just what I asked for. Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will be the LORD’s servant for as long as he lives.”

Discussion - What did Hannah promise?

- ▶ What did Hannah promise in today's story?

(In the story today Hannah made a promise that if she had a son she would give him back to God and he would grow up in the Temple with Eli.)

- ▶ Do you think that was an easy or hard thing to promise?
- ▶ Do you think it was easy or hard to do what she promised?
- ▶ Have you ever made a promise?
- ▶ Did you keep your promise? Was it easy or hard to keep?



Prayer - I promise

- ▶ Hannah promised to give something very precious (her son Samuel) to God.
- ▶ Everyone should get something that is precious to them (a toy, a book, chocolate!)
- ▶ While holding your object take turns to say the following prayer and say what you are holding when it says [precious things].

Dear God,

Thank you for the [precious things] you have blessed me with. I promise to use the [precious things] you have given me for good and to help other people.

Amen.



Creative time

Have a go at one or more of the activities below:



- ▶ Draw a picture or comic strip of the story.
- ▶ Make an “I promise” pledge certificate - things you will try and do/not do this week (tidy your toys, pray every day, not fight with your brother/sister).
- ▶ God makes lots of promises in the Bible. Try to write down any you can think of and look up some others. You can use the website “Bible Gateway” and put the word “promise” in the search box. I found over 700 mentions of the word promise!!

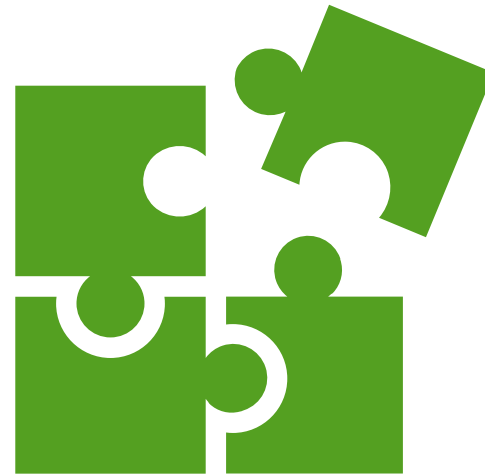


Memory Verse

- ▶ Write the memory verse below on a piece of paper and decorate.

“The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does.” Psalm 145:13

- ▶ Cut up the paper into puzzle pieces and have a go at putting the pieces back together.
- ▶ If you all make a memory verse puzzle you could swap and try and make each others.



Reflection

- ▶ What did you learn about in the story today?
- ▶ What was your favourite part of today's session?
- ▶ What have you promised to do this week?

- ▶ Prayer to end:

Thank you, God for our time together learning about Hannah, the promise she made and the birth of Samuel. Thank you for all the amazing promises you have made to us and always keep - like loving us, caring for us and sending Jesus to save us. Please tell us to keep the promises we make and act towards others as you would like us to. AMEN!

Something extra:

- ▶ Is there anything God is asking you to give up for Him? Remember though Hannah wasn't forced to give up Samuel, she did so willingly. God wants us to be cheerful givers - just like it says in the Bible: "Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:7b