



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 4, Unit 10, Lesson 1: Hannah and Samuel

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1-3

Personal Preparation

The time of the judges was turbulent for God's people. The Israelites had conquered the promised land of Canaan, but after Joshua's death, they fell into a cycle of sin. This was the culture in which Hannah and her husband Elkanah lived. They were ordinary Israelites—Elkanah, a devoted worshiper of the Lord; and Hannah, a woman who wanted nothing more than to be a mother. However, the Lord had closed her womb (1 Sam. 1:5).

One year, when Elkanah went to make sacrifices and worship God, Hannah went too. She could no longer hide her grief over being childless. She prayed so fervently to the Lord—asking for a child and vowing to dedicate him to God—that Eli the priest rebuked her because he thought she was drunk.

God answered Hannah's prayers, and she named her son Samuel, which means "requested from God." When Samuel was old enough to wean, Hannah presented him to Eli. First Samuel 2 records Hannah's triumphant prayer. Hannah glorified God for his sovereignty; then she went home with her husband, leaving Samuel to serve God under the leadership of Eli.

Hannah visited Samuel each year and brought him a robe. Samuel faithfully served God. On the other hand, Eli's sons—though they were priests—had no regard for God. They did not listen to Eli, so God rejected Eli's family. This hard news came to Eli through the boy Samuel. Review 1 Samuel 3. Note how Samuel responded to God's call: "Speak, for your servant is listening." Today, help the individuals

identify Samuel's role as God's messenger. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. Lead them to connect Samuel to Jesus. Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God's plan and showed what God is like. Thank God for sending messengers like Samuel throughout the Old Testament. Thank him for sending Jesus to be the Word incarnate. Thank him for the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. Pray that the individuals would see who God is through Jesus.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by introducing the new memory verse for this unit.

Jeremiah 10:6

"Lord, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power."

Points of Emphasis

1. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan.
2. God is greater than everything and everyone.

Activity #1

Guide the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let them continue as you teach the lesson.

Video

God's people had conquered the promised land, but they did not follow God very well. No sooner had Joshua died than the people turned from God and did evil things, like

worshiping false gods and idols. God sent many judges to help them repent, or turn from sin toward God, but the people consistently ignored God to do as they pleased.

Today, we will learn about the final judge whom God sent to lead Israel. We will learn how his mother prayed for him to be born and the amazing way God called him to become a prophet.

Play the video for the lesson titled “Hannah and Samuel.”

Bible Lesson

The Bible says Hannah prayed out of a broken heart. Her husband told her not to be sad, and Eli thought something was wrong with her, but she poured out her heart to God anyway. She didn't try to hide her feelings from God or only pray what she thought God wanted to hear. She trusted that God was good and powerful. She knew that he would listen to her even if no one else would. She knew that he could answer her prayer when no one else could.

When Samuel was born to Hannah, she dedicated him to God. Samuel grew up in the temple. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan, but the Bible explains that when God first called Samuel, he did not know it was God. He thought Eli was calling! That night, Samuel did not seek out God; God sought out Samuel. All Samuel had to do was listen.

Our God is the one who seeks after us. He does not sit in heaven and say, “You have to do enough good things before I will listen to you or speak to you.” Instead, God speaks to us through his Word.

Activity #2

Lead the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the new memory verse with the group. Help them begin to learn it. Encourage them to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God's plan and showed what God is like. God sent Jesus down to us to show us his power and love. No one is like God. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on Hannah and Samuel. Today's episode asks what we should do when we don't understand something in the Bible.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

- 1. Point to who wanted a son very badly.** Hannah
- 2. Point to Hannah's son.** Samuel
- 3. Point to who Hannah dedicated her son to.** God
- 4. Point to who called Samuel.** God

Group B

- 1. What did Hannah want very badly?** A child, a son
- 2. What did Hannah do after Samuel was born?** Dedicated him to the Lord
- 3. What did Samuel say after he knew it was God calling him?** “Speak, for your servant is listening.”
- 4. Will God always give us what we ask for in prayer?** God loves to give us good gifts. When we ask for things in prayer, we can trust that God will give us what is best for us. That means that sometimes God will give us what we want, but sometimes he will not. When God does not give us something, it is because that thing is not for his glory and our good.
- 5. How can we hear from God today?** The primary way God speaks to us today is

through his Word. We can hear from God through the Holy Spirit or even through other Christians whom God may use, but if we ever think God is telling us something that goes against the Bible, that message is not from God.

- 6. Can you think of times you have been afraid to share God's message with others?** Guide the individuals to discuss their fears or insecurities honestly. Share times in your life that you knew what God's Word said about something but you were afraid to tell others. Talk about ways to overcome fear and speak the truth in a way that is loving.

Group C

- 1. How does God speak to us today?** God spoke directly to Samuel and to many others in the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God. God tells us everything we need to know about him through his Word.
- 2. What message do we have to share with the world?** Lead the individuals to review the gospel. Emphasize the bad news of sin and the good news of the Savior. Point out that God calls all believers to share the good news about Jesus with the world.
- 3. Have you ever been afraid to share the gospel? Why or why not?** Allow individuals to share their experiences. Point out that Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. We might feel afraid to share God's message about Jesus when we fear other people. Assure the individuals that God is with us. Everyone needs a chance to know and love God.

Group D

Advanced Learner

- 1. What does this story teach us about God?** God had a plan for Samuel. God called Hannah's son to share God's plan. God has a good plan for us to know and love him. Jesus died on the cross to bring us back to God so we can have forgiveness and life forever with him.
- 2. What message did God have for Eli's family?** God spoke to Samuel and gave him a message. God's message was bad

news! God was going to judge Eli's family because Eli's sons did not listen to Eli or obey God.

- 3. How does God speak to us today?**
- 4. What are your favorite ways/times/places to read the Bible?**

Prayer

God, thank you for calling Samuel to be your messenger. Help us to hear from you each day through the Holy Spirit and through your Word. Give us ears that want to listen to you and hearts that want to love and obey you. Amen.

