

Upper Elementary

Hannah

Checklist

☐ melon, cut in half

☐ onion, cut in half

Topic:	Hannah and Samuel
Prep:	Cut a melon and onion in half, then place the halves back together so that they look like they have not been cut.
Intro:	Show the children the melon and open it. If you had never seen a melon before, you would be surprised to see how different it is on the inside.
	Show them the onion and open it. An onion is the same all the way through, layer after layer. Sometimes people might come to God in prayer with nice words that they have heard from someone else. They don't want to share their deepest hurts with God, so they put a hard shell around their hearts. Hold up the melon. But God wants us to come to Him freely, not hiding anything. Hold up the onion.
1 Samuel 1:9-11	So Hannah rose up after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his seat by the doorpost of Yahweh's temple. She was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to Yahweh, weeping bitterly. She vowed a vow, and said, "Yahweh of Armies, if You will indeed look at the affliction of Your servant and remember me, and not forget Your servant, but will give to Your servant a boy, then I will give him to Yahweh all the days of his life, and no razor shall come on his head."
	Hannah wanted a child very badly. She could have just asked God for one. Why do you think she offered to give her son back to God? (she understood all gifts are from God and belong to Him, she wanted to thank God for the son, she believed her son would be closer to God) Hannah was promising to make her son a Nazarite. This was a group of people who never cut their hair or tasted any kind of grapes. These were both symbols of belonging to this group (like police officers and nurses wear special uniforms to show who they are).



Hannah



1 Samuel 1:9-11

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If I could ask God for only one thing, it would be:



<p>1 Samuel 1:12-18</p>	<p>As she continued praying before Yahweh, Eli saw her mouth. Now Hannah spoke in her heart. Only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore, Eli thought she was drunk. Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit. I have not been drinking wine or strong drink, but I poured out my soul before Yahweh. Don't consider your servant a wicked woman; for I have been speaking out of the abundance of my complaint and my provocation." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him." She said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate; and her facial expression wasn't sad any more.</p>
	<p>Do you think God gets upset if we show our true feelings when we are praying to Him? Re-read Hannah's prayer in a monotone voice, making it obvious you are reading from the paper. Is that the way to open your heart up to God? God knows what is in our hearts. We don't need to hide how we're feeling from Him. If you are very sad (or angry, or frustrated), tell God all about it in prayer. You can be completely blunt with Him. There are no feelings you need to be embarrassed about.</p>



1 Samuel 1:12-18

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When I pray to God, I can be completely _____.

1 Samuel 1:19-20	They rose up in the morning early and worshiped Yahweh, then returned and came to their house to Ramah. Then Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and Yahweh remembered her. When the time had come, Hannah conceived, and bore a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of Yahweh."
	What did Hannah do the next morning? (worship God) How did God answer Hannah's prayer? (He gave her the son she asked for)
1 Samuel 1:26-28	She said, "Oh, my lord, as your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to Yahweh. I prayed for this child, and Yahweh has given me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I have also given him to Yahweh. As long as he lives he is given to Yahweh." He worshiped Yahweh there.



1 Samuel 1:19-20

3

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Did God keep His promise to Hannah?

Yes ☐

No ☐



In ancient times there were no local churches. People had to travel a long way to visit the tabernacle of God. Because of this, families might only go once a year.



1 Samuel 1:26-28

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Hannah kept Samuel at home while he was little and took care of her baby. When he was old enough, did she keep her promise to God? It might seem strange that Hannah would send her son to live at the temple at such a young age, but life back then was very different. Today, children go to a school every day and come back home every night. They live at home until they are eighteen. Life has only been like this for a couple hundred years. Children used to go and live with the person who's job they were learning starting at a very young age. So Samuel was only leaving home a little bit earlier than what was normal.

1 Samuel 2:18-21 But Samuel ministered before Yahweh, being a child, clothed with a linen ephod. Moreover his mother made him a little robe, and brought it to him from year to year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, "May Yahweh give you offspring from this woman for the petition which was asked of Yahweh." Then they went to their own home. Yahweh visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. The child Samuel grew before Yahweh.

Hannah realized that Samuel was a special gift from God. She dedicated him to God and brought him to serve in the tabernacle. God blessed her with more children to have at home. But Samuel would be special. He would grow up to be a prophet for God.

Yes

No

Did Hannah keep her promise to God?
 ☐
☐

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The Nazarites were a special group of people who were set aside to be holy for God. Two ways they showed they belonged to this group were to never cut their hair, and to never eat grapes or drink anything that came from grapes.



I pray:

- ☐ all the time
- ☐ every day
- ☐ every once in a while
- ☐ only when I'm in trouble
- ☐ when I want something

Praying makes me feel:

- ☐ good about myself
- ☐ happy
- ☐ guilty for the bad things I have done
- ☐ calm

I believe that God:

- ☐ always gives us what we pray for
- ☐ sometimes answers prayers
- ☐ sometimes says "no" as an answer to prayer
- ☐ answers prayers only if we say it right
- ☐ doesn't care whether I pray or not

Closing:

Hand children the prayer questionnaire. Make sure no one (including adults) looks at anyone else's answers. Have them check all that apply. Explain that this is to help them understand what is in their hearts right now. Emphasize that you want them to answer totally honestly. Since you won't be looking at it, they don't need to write down the answers they think you want to hear.

Read the bible passages and guide children to (re-)think about the answers. Explain that prayer is about talking to God with the same openness that they might talk to themselves. God knows what they think better than even they know.

What the Bible Says about Prayer

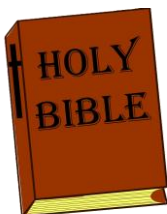
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ~ 1 John 1:9

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective. ~ James 5:16

In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

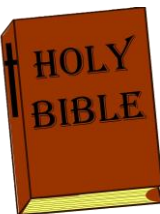
Hannah



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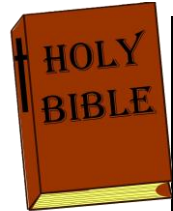


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**Did God keep
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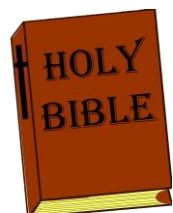
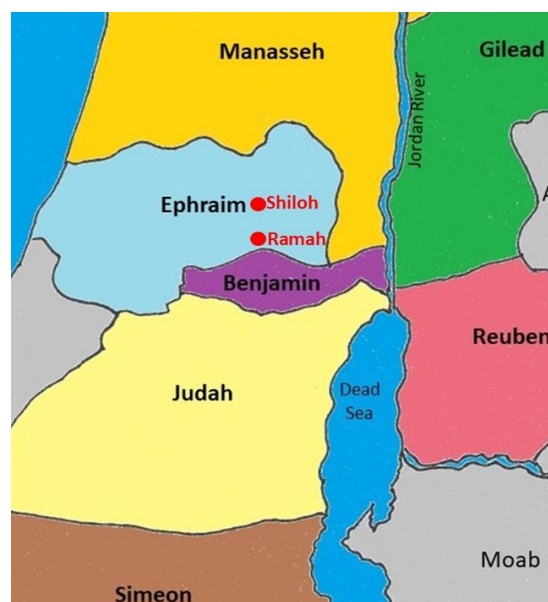
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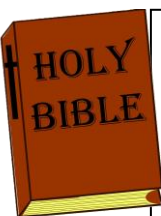
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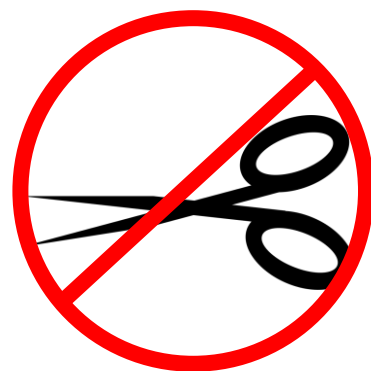


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☐

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I believe that God:

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always gives us what we pray for

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sometimes answers prayers

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sometimes says "no" as an answer to prayer

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answers prayers only if we say it right

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Hannah



Name: _____

Hannah, Samuel, Shiloh, Ramah, Ephraim, children, prayer,
heartache

Isuaem _____

paremhi _____

hosihl _____

cdlheinr _____

haarm _____

raprye _____

nhanha _____

ehecarath _____