**Large Group October 15**

**Bible Teaching: Eli, Hannah, and Samuel**

**Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1-3**

**Bible Teaching Summary**

More than anything else, Hannah wanted a baby. She prayed fervently to the Lord, promising if He gave her a kid, the kid would be dedicated to His service forever. Hannah gave birth to Samuel. She kept her word and left him with Eli to serve in the temple. God called out to Samuel, but Samuel didn’t know it was Him. After several times, Eli told Samuel to respond to God. God raised Samuel up to be a prophet for all of Israel.

**brite\* Idea: God cares for us.**

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6b**

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god.*

**Focus Verses: Psalm 34:18, 1 Peter 5:7, Luke 12:6-7**

**He Question: Does God know what's happening in people's lives?**

God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us and He cares about us.

**We Question: How does God show that He cares about us?**

God is with us all the time. He hears our prayers and answers them in the way He knows is best. He provides for us and gives us His peace and grace.

**Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?**

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

**Leader Tips: Invite Participation**

If there is a kid whose behaviors are regularly distracting from the group’s purpose, it can be helpful to have an individual conversation with them. Share with the kid what you notice, focusing on the observable behaviors, and ask questions to better understand why the kid is acting that way. If they aren’t sure, you may want to provide some possible ideas and see if anything resonates with them. Then work together to develop a plan that helps to meet the kid’s needs and upholds the group expectations. By including the kid in this process, you are inviting them to take greater ownership for their choices and the outcomes. Consider also including in the plan the steps that will be taken if the unhelpful behaviors continue so that the kid is clear on what to expect. Finally, periodically review the plan with the kid as an opportunity to celebrate progress and make any necessary adjustments.

**Navigating a Broken World: Foster Care**

In today’s story, kids may be confused by Hannah giving the child she had prayed for to be raised by someone else. In this situation, Hannah was keeping a promise to God. She loved Samuel so much that she wanted the best for him, which in this case meant living and serving God in the temple. There are over 400,000 kids in foster care in the United States.[\*](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/media/press/2021/national-data-shows-number-children-foster-care-decreases-third-consecutive-year) In these situations, kids end up living with someone other than their parents due to sickness, trouble, or neglect. You may have kids in your group who have been in the foster care system. Avoid asking specifics about why kids are in foster care or about the situation of their biological parents. It might be difficult for them to discuss, but also there is a good chance they don’t know the whole situation. Recognize that many kids in foster care have experienced significant trauma, resulting in emotional or behavioral challenges that they may exhibit in your group. Offer support and acceptance to all kids, while partnering with foster parents to understand how best to meet kids’ needs. Most of all, help kids know that your group and your church are a place where they can truly belong.

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

 **Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: 4 different flavors of baby food, plastic spoons, blindfolds, video playerT*

**Find it in the Bible:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

Hannah prayed for a baby and God blessed her with Samuel. Samuel grew up in the temple. God called out to him there, and eventually raised him up to be a great prophet.

*Supplies Needed: Bible, printable page, baskets, bowls or container (1 per group)*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, lollipops, teaching slides, video player*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

**Kid’s Enter**

 Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

**Gather kids into their age groups**

 Do the “Belong” activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown **when groups are winding down with their “Belong” activity and gather them into the main teaching area**

**Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos**

Video: “See A Victory”

Video: “Same God”

Offering

Theme Slide

**Ask all to sit, then teach through “Bible Teaching” section below**

**Welcome**

**Supplies:** 4 different flavors of baby food, plastic spoons, blindfolds

**Prep:** Select two kids to participate and make sure they do not have any food allergies. Do not show them the jars of baby food.

**Say:** How many of you have ever had to care for a baby? Maybe you helped babysit or you helped care for a younger sibling? Babies take a lot of work. You have to change diapers and rock them to sleep and feed them! Let’s play a little game called “Name That Food.”

*Bring your selected kids to the front and give them both a blindfold to put on. Using separate spoons, you will give each kid a taste of one of the flavors. After both have tried it, they will guess what the flavor is. Continue for all four flavors. Whoever guesses the most is the winner.*

**Say:** Today’s story will include a very special baby, and hopefully he didn’t have to eat any of these flavors of food! Before we learn about him, let’s find out what is happening with our friends on the next episode of Sugar Rush.

**Intro Video**

 *Play the Intro video, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Gracie felt like no one really cared about her.

**Ask:** Have you ever had a time when you felt like no one cared?

**Say:** It can be pretty discouraging when you feel like no one cares. Today, we will learn that we have someone who always cares for us, no matter what! Today’s brite\* idea is: God cares for us.

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

Does God know what's happening in people's lives?

How does God show that He cares about us?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for my life?

**Find It in the Bible**

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God’s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned, so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it, and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**New Feature to help the kids learn the books of the Bible**

Say: Now before we find out where today’s Bible story comes from, we have a fun video to help us learn all the Bible books in order! Are ready?!! Here we go!!!

**Play 66 Books In The Bible Song video**

**The video can be viewed at this link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pXpdFgxlbg>or on our Brite page.

**Where is today’s Bible story?**

This week’s story comes from the book of 1 Samuel. 1 Samuel is called a historical book of the Bible and introduces us to the first kings of Israel. This story comes after God’s people have entered the Promised Land and have rebelled against Him many times. Last week, we learned about how God would raise up judges, like Deborah, to rescue the people.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of 1 Samuel. Then show them how to get to today’s Bible passage (1 Samuel 1).*

**Bible Teaching: Hannah, Samuel, and Eli**

**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 1-3

**Supplies:** Bible, printable page, baskets, bowls, or container (1 per group)

**Prep:** Print and cut out one printable page for each group. Have the kids sit in rows of six to eight kids each. Place a basket with the pictures at the end of each row.

**Say:** As we share today’s true story from the Bible, we are going to play a game similar to “Telephone.” Throughout our story, there will be times that we will whisper a special message to the kid on one end of the row. Your job will be to whisper it to the kid next to you. You will continue all the way down the row. If you are sitting on the end, your job will be to find the picture in the group’s basket that matches the special message. You will pass that picture back down the row. We will help you as we go.

**Say:** During the time of the Judges, there was a man named Elkanah who had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. Penninah had children, but Hannah did not. Each year, they would travel to the temple. Every time, Peninnah would make fun of Hannah and constantly taunt her about not having children. She would make Hannah cry, and Hannah wouldn’t even eat.

**Read 1 Samuel 1:10 directly from the Bible,** *She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.*

*Have all the adult leaders disperse the following message by whispering to the child in each group who is in possession of the group’s book: “God cares about our tears.” Have kids pass the message down the row to the child next to the group’s basket. That child should find the picture of a teardrop and pass it back down the row to the first child.*

**Say:** Hannah told God, “If You will give Your servant a son, I will give him back to serve You his entire life.” Eli, the priest, saw her praying silently with her lips moving. He thought there was something wrong with her. Hannah explained that she was pouring out her soul to the Lord. Eli said, “Go in peace and may God answer your prayer.”

**Say:** God did answer Hannah’s prayer. He saw her tears and knew her heart. He cared for her.

**Read 1 Samuel 1:20 directly from the Bible,** *And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the Lord.”*

**Say:** Hannah prayed, praising God, “There is none holy like the Lord, there is no rock like our God.”

*Follow the same process of the telephone game, this time having adult leaders whisper: “God cared about Hannah wanting a baby.” The picture of the baby should be passed back down the row.*

**Say:** When Samuel was a boy, Hannah took him to the temple to live, just as she promised. Samuel served the Lord in the temple, alongside Eli the priest.

*Follow the same process with the message: “God cared about Samuel’s heart.” The picture of the heart should be passed back.*

**Say:** Eli had two sons who were doing very evil things. They didn’t know the Lord. They didn’t follow God’s commands for the sacrifices and they took things for themselves. One night, as Samuel slept, the Lord called his name.

**Read 1 Samuel 3:4-5 directly from the Bible,** *Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.*

**Say:** This happened two more times before Eli realized what was happening. “Go back to bed,” he told Samuel. “When you hear your name called again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.’”

*Follow the same process with the message: “God cared and wanted Samuel to hear Him.” The picture of the ear should be passed back.*

**Say:** God told Samuel about evil things Eli’s sons were doing, and that Eli and his sons wouldn’t continue serving Him. The Lord cared for Hannah and answered her prayer for a child. The Lord also cared for Israel by removing Eli’s evil sons. He raised Samuel to become a great prophet in Israel.

*Have kids work with their row to put the pictures in the right order of the story. Use the pictures to review with the whole group.*

 *Teardrops - God cared about Hannah’s tears.*

 *Baby - God cared about Hannah wanting a baby.*

 *Heart - God cared about Samuel’s heart.*

 *Ear - God cared and wanted Samuel to hear Him.*

POINT TO JESUS

Jesus’ whole ministry on earth showed that God cares for His people. Jesus healed many people, helping those who were sick or couldn’t walk or couldn’t see. He wept when His friends were sad because their brother, Lazarus died. He reached out to people that were ignored in His society. Jesus showed that God cares about our hurt and provides for us. Most of all, Jesus demonstrated how much God cares for us by sacrificing Himself for our sins.

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Watch the Bible Story Review Video and then play the game below.**

**Place a lollipop on a stool or table and bring two kids to the front. When you read the question, the first one to grab the lollipop can answer. If they get it right, they get to keep the candy. Repeat for each question with two new kids.**

1. Why was Hannah upset?
2. She didn’t like the food. **B. She didn’t have a child.**

*Hannah wept over not having a child of her own. Her pain was made worse by another woman making fun of her for it. Hannah cried out to God for help.*

1. Where did Samuel grow up?
2. **In the temple**  b. In his parents’ home

*Hannah promised the Lord that if He answered her prayer, she would dedicate her child to Him. When Samuel was old enough, she brought him to live with Eli, the priest.*

1. Samuel heard someone calling him while he was sleeping. Who did he think it was?
2. God **b. Eli**
3. God told Samuel bad news about who?
4. **Eli and his sons** b. Hannah and Samuel
5. What did Samuel grow up to be?
6. **A great prophet in Israel** b. A bad priest

 6. Does God know what’s happening in people’s lives?

1. Sometimes **b. Always**

*God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us and He cares about us.*

7. How does God show He cares about us?

1. **Hearing us and providing for us**. b. Ignoring us.

*God is with us all the time. He hears our prayers and answers them in the way He knows is best. He provides for us and gives us His peace and grace.*

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** God cares for us.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Isaiah 44:6b*

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**HE QUESTION: Does God know what's happening in people's lives?** God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us and He cares about us.

**WE QUESTION:** **How does God show that He cares about us?** God is with us all the time. He hears our prayers and answers them in the way He knows is best. He provides for us and gives us His peace and grace.

**Prayer**

God, thank You for hearing Hannah’s prayer and thank You for hearing ours. Hannah praised You for caring for her. We praise You for caring for each of us. We praise You because You have a perfect plan for our lives. We trust You and love You. Amen.

**As time permits…**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

 Do the “Believing” activity with the 2 groups

 AND/OR

 *Do the “Becoming” activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE*

***HAND OUT TAKE HOME SHEETS at end of class***