



LESSON 2

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 1:20-28; 2:18-21; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 572-574.

Hannah's Gift to God

Have you ever wondered about people who help at church? You can help too.

Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, had been to the tabernacle at Shiloh to worship the Lord. And Hannah had prayed for a baby. Old Priest Eli had asked God to give her what she had prayed for.

Hannah was so happy! And it wasn't very long before everybody knew why.



Everyone could see that Hannah was going to have a baby!

And then one day Hannah's baby boy was born. Hannah may have looked at her beautiful baby's dark, curly hair and his cute little ears. She probably touched his soft skin and counted his tiny toes. Hannah named her baby Samuel because that name means "heard of God." She had asked God for a son, and He had heard her.

Memory Verse

"For his whole life he will be given . . . to the Lord."

1 SAMUEL 1:28, NIV.

The Message

We serve God when we help God's leaders.

The next year when it was time to go to worship the Lord at Shiloh again, Elkanah went, but Hannah stayed home. “I will wait until the baby can feed himself,” she said to her husband. “Then I will take him to the tabernacle. And he will stay there and serve the Lord.”

So when Samuel grew old enough to eat regular food, Hannah took him to the tabernacle, just as she had promised. “Do you remember me?” she asked Eli. “I stood here and prayed to the Lord for a son. He gave me this beautiful boy, and now I am giving him back to the Lord. My boy will belong to the Lord all his life.”

Little Samuel looked up at Priest Eli. He was not afraid to stay at the tabernacle with him. Even though he was still a little boy, he could help God’s leader, Priest Eli.

Hannah missed her boy very much! Now she looked forward all year to going to worship at the tabernacle. Every year Hannah took a new coat to Samuel. And every year Priest Eli would bless Hannah and Elkanah. “May the Lord give you more children,” Eli said.

God did bless Hannah and her husband. In the years that followed, God gave them more than she had asked for—three more sons and two daughters. They lived at home with their mother and father. But little Samuel lived at the tabernacle and helped Priest Eli.

Hannah missed little Samuel but she kept her promise to God. She had given her son to the Lord, to be Priest Eli’s helper. She would see him only once a year, when the family went to Shiloh again. But that was all right, because she loved the Lord and she was happy to have

Samuel serve Him.
Samuel was happy
to help Priest Eli.
Samuel was happy
to help God.



Do and Say

SABBATH

To review the memory verse each day this week, ask your child to squat down; then stand taller as you say each word together. Remind them that Samuel started serving God when he was little and continued to serve Him as he grew bigger.

SUNDAY

Together, find and read 1 Samuel 1:20-28, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: What did Samuel's name mean? When did Hannah take Samuel to Priest Eli?

Make a growth chart. Mark every one inch or one centimeter. Write: "(child's name) will serve Jesus all the days of his/her life." Mark your child's height. Say: You can serve Jesus as you grow, just as Samuel did.



MONDAY

Read the lesson story together. Ask: What did Hannah take to Samuel every year? How many more children did God bless Hannah with?

Show your child their baby pictures. Talk about how your child could help as a baby compared to now. Sing a song about helping.

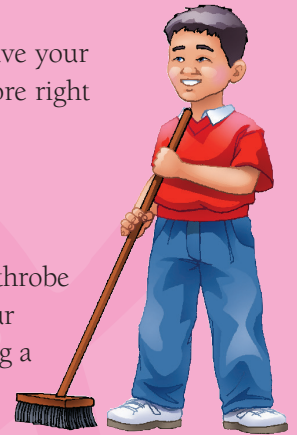
TUESDAY

Together, find and read 1 Samuel 2:18-21, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: What do you think Samuel did to help Priest Eli? Which can

you do to help at home? Have your child help you with one chore right now.

WEDNESDAY

Find a coat, jacket, or bathrobe for your child to wear as your family acts out the story. Sing a song about helping; then ask Jesus to help your child be His helper. Say the memory verse together before prayer.



THURSDAY

Ask: What can you do to help our pastor? (sit quietly in church, help collect the offering, give special music, etc.) Can you do one of those things this Sabbath?

Sing a favorite helping song. Ask Jesus to help your family be His helpers every day.

FRIDAY

During worship, read selected paragraphs about Samuel in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 572-574. Ask: What did Hannah teach Samuel? How did Samuel treat Eli? How did Eli treat Samuel? How should we treat each other?

Say the memory verse together.

If it applies, tell your child about their baby dedication (show pictures if you have them). Discuss what it means to be dedicated to God.