



God Answers Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 1:1-28

Your 5- and 6-year-olds understand what it means to be sad, yet each child's experience varies. Some children may have experienced deaths in their families, while others' saddest memories may have involved being deprived of dessert after a meal. Some children may have experienced homelessness or abuse, while others' saddest times could involve a soiled new outfit. Keep in mind that sadness, though a universal concept, will mean different things to different children.



► Bible Point



Turn to God when you're sad.

Key Verse

"Put your hope in God" (Psalm 42:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will turn to God when they're sad.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i> | Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i> | Hope in God Learn a song about hoping in God. | CD player, Bible Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i> | Theo's News Find out what happy and sad faces have to do with the Bible story. | CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet Teacher Pack: CD, Smiling/Frowning Face  | Place the Smiling/Frowning Face in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible. |
| | Bible Time Show sad and happy reactions to Hannah's story. | Bible, CD player, face paint Teacher Pack: CD, Smiling/Frowning Face  | |

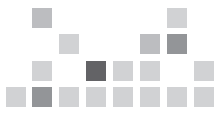
Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p> | <p>Center 1: Dry Hannah's Eyes Make a Hannah puppet.</p> | My Bible Playground, crayons, safety scissors, glue, tissues, 2 paper fasteners per child | Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. |
| | <p>Center 2: Happy and Sad Faces Make faces out of food, and talk about today's story.</p> | scissors, resealable plastic bags, plastic knives, napkins, 1 biscuit per child, butter, jelly | Cut a small slit in one corner of each of several resealable plastic bags to create squeezable jelly containers. |
| | <p>Center 3: I Am Sad When... Listen to music, and draw things that make them happy and sad.</p> | newsprint, tape, crayons, CD player Teacher Pack: CD | Tape a large sheet of newsprint to a wall. Each child in the learning center will need about 2 feet of newsprint on which to draw. |
| | <p>Center 4: Happy Shakers Make instruments to praise God and to turn sadness to gladness.</p> | vinyl tablecloth or newspaper, one 20-ounce plastic pop bottle per child, large bowl of dry rice, funnel, small scoop, smiley stickers, glue, metallic confetti (optional) | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p> | My Bible Playground | |
| | <p>Rhyming Prayer Do actions to a rhyming prayer to thank God for his care.</p> | | |
| | <p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p> | | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





God Answers Hannah’s Prayer

1 Samuel 1:1-28

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Unable to Have Children

To understand the pain caused by Hannah’s childlessness, one must realize how important it was in Old Testament times that women provide children. A woman who couldn’t conceive was an embarrassment, or even a disgrace, to her husband. Adding to Hannah’s pain were the taunts of Elkanah’s other wife, Peninnah, a situation that illustrates the strife that the practice of polygamy can create. Even Elkanah’s love for Hannah and his words of encouragement could not comfort her.

Hannah Bitterly Prays to God for a Child

Hannah provides a great example of what we should do when we are hurting. “In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed” (1 Samuel 1:10). She poured out her heart—even her bitterness—to God. Her prayer was so anguished that Eli, the priest, assumed she was drunk! God wants to hear from us when we’re hurting, and yes, even when we’re bitter or angry at him.

Hannah’s prayer and God’s answer to it warn us of an important truth: If we make a vow to God, we must be ready to fulfill it. Hannah vowed that if God gave her a son, she would give him fully to the service of the Lord.

Hannah Gives Samuel to God

When Samuel was born, Hannah lived up to her vow. As soon as Samuel was old enough to live without his mother (sometime after he was about 3 years old), she took him to Eli at the tabernacle and gave him to the service of the Lord. Samuel grew up there, no doubt performing simple tasks for Eli.

The Jesus Connection

We all experience hurts and sadness, and Jesus experienced those things, too. We can always know that he’s right there with us, listening and answering our prayers.

Reread 1 Samuel 1:12-20. How does God respond to us when we cry out in anguish and grief? What sadness, pain, or grief do you need to pour out to God? It’s great to know we serve a God who cares about our human hurts. Turn to God in prayer, and leave your pain with him today. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Are You Listening?”
(track 7); “Love and
Pray” (Matthew 5:44)
(track 4)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play “Are You Listening?” (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of “Frère Jacques” and lead children in doing the motions.



Are you listening (*cup hands behind ears*)

Are you listening (*keep hands behind ears*)

To the Lord? (*lift your right hand up*)

To the Lord? (*lift your left hand up*)

Welcome to our church to (*shake hands with a partner*)

Hear what God will tell us (*shake hands with another partner*)

Through his Word. (*place both hands together like a book*)

Through his Word. (*keep hands shaped like a book*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we’ll learn that you can ► TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU’RE SAD. Let’s sing “Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44).**

Begin the CD again, and lead children in singing “Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44) (track 4 on the CD). Encourage children to join you in repeating the verses.



And he says,

Love, love, love your enemies.

Love, love, love your enemies.

Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

(Repeat.)

This love is surprising.

This love is unique.

This love comes from Jesus.

Let us hear him speak.





And he says,
Love, love, love your enemies.
Love, love, love your enemies.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

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Let us hear him speak.

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Love, love, love your enemies.
Love, love, love your enemies.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

“Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44) by Rob Biagi. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY


Hope in God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and remain standing. Open your Bible to Psalm 42:11, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “Put your hope in God.” Let’s say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you. **Let’s sing a song to help us remember to put our hope in God.**

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing “Put Your Hope in God” (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of “Do Your Ears Hang Low?” Have kids join you in doing the actions.

 **Put your hope in God** (*fold hands together in prayer and hold them up high*)
When you’re feeling sad and blue.
Put your hope in God (*fold hands together in prayer and hold them up high*)
When you don’t know what to do. (*shrug your shoulders with hands up*)

Hope in God Supplies

- CD player
- Bible
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Put Your Hope in God” (track 15)





Turn to God (*turn around in a circle*)

When you are sad

And he will always comfort you. (*hug yourself and sway back and forth*)

Put your hope in God. (*fold hands together in prayer and hold them up high*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things that make you sad?**
- **What does it mean to put your hope in God?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that God will comfort you when you're sad?**

Say: **No matter whether we're sad, mad, or scared, we can always put our hope in God. God cares for us and loves us very much, and he will always comfort us.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo found for us today.

(*Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the Smiling/Frowning Face around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.*)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this picture in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, in today's story God made a sad woman happy.

Teacher: Kids, have you ever been sad?

(*Pause for kids to tell you about an unhappy time.*)

Teacher: What made you happy again?

(*Pause to allow kids to answer your question.*)

Theo: We all feel sad sometimes. The Bible tells us we can turn to God when we're sad.

Teacher: Let's listen to a Bible story about a woman named Hannah who was sad. We'll see how God took care of her and made her feel better.

Theo's News Supplies

CD player

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)

Smiling/Frowning Face

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the Smiling/Frowning Face in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.



Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!
Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story says to ► TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU'RE SAD.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you.

Form pairs and have partners stand back to back with their arms locked together. Use face paint to quickly draw a happy face on one partner and a sad face on the other partner in each pair.

Say: **I need your help for today's Bible story. As we listen to our Bible story on the CD, every time you hear the word "sad," turn so you show me your sad-faced partner. I'll hold the Smiling/Frowning Face so you can see the sad face.** Hold up the Smiling/Frowning Face so kids can see the sad face.

Every time you hear the word "happy," turn and show me your happy-faced partner. I'll hold the Smiling/Frowning Face up so you can see the happy face. Hold up the Smiling/Frowning Face so kids can see the happy face. **Now we're ready for Hannah to tell us her story.**

Play "Hannah's Story" (track 16 on the CD), directing the children to turn and show the appropriate faces at the designated times. After the story, discuss the questions.

Hi, friends! My name is Hannah. The story you're going to hear begins kind of sad. (Have kids show sad faces.) **But my story has a happy ending!** (have kids show happy faces)

I really wanted a family of my own, but I didn't have any children—and that made me sad. (Have kids show sad faces.) **I knew that when I prayed, I felt happy.** (Have kids show happy faces.) **I knew that the best thing you can do is ► TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU'RE SAD.** (Have kids show sad faces.)

Each day, I prayed and talked to God about having a baby. Each year, my husband and I went to the temple, which is like a church, and I prayed there about having a baby. I told God that if my prayers were answered, I would give my baby to the temple to be God's servant. While I was at the temple, the priest named Eli talked with me and said, "May God answer your prayer." You know what? Soon I had a baby boy! I named him Samuel. I was so happy! (Have kids show happy faces.) **Just like me, always remember to ► TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU'RE SAD** (have kids show sad faces) **so he can make you happy, too.** (Have kids show happy faces.)



Bible Time Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- face paint
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Hannah's Story" (track 16)
- Smiling/Frowning Face





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why was Hannah sad?
- How did Hannah feel after she talked to Eli the priest?
- Who do you talk to when you're sad?
- Why do you think you should ► **TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU'RE SAD?**

Say: **Hannah turned to God when she was sad. She also talked to Eli the priest. Sometimes we feel better when we talk to others about our sadness. God uses other people to comfort us when we are sad, too.**

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4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Dry Hannah's Eyes

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 5 pages from My Bible Playground and let kids write their names on the pages. Encourage children to color the picture of Hannah with crayons. Then have the children cut out the arms from the bottom of the page and attach them on each X using paper fasteners.

Have the children each glue a tissue onto the inside of one of Hannah's hands. Show the children how to move Hannah's arms so she can dry her sad eyes with the tissue and then fold her hands in prayer to turn to God when she is sad.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Hannah do when she was sad?
- How does God know when we are sad?

Center 1: Dry Hannah's Eyes Supplies

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My Bible Playground
crayons
safety scissors
glue
tissues
2 paper fasteners per
child

Center 1: Dry Hannah's Eyes Easy Prep

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Remove the Lesson
5 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Say: **God knows when we're sad even before we tell him. When we pray to God about our sadness, God will comfort us and make us feel better.** ► **TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU'RE SAD.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Happy and Sad Faces

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children wash their hands (or use wet wipes) and then sit in a circle. Put jelly in each of the resealable plastic bags that you prepared earlier (or simply use squeezable jelly), and set out spreadable butter. Give each child two biscuit halves, a plastic knife, and a napkin. Have kids spread butter on both of their biscuit halves, and then have them squeeze the jelly to make a happy face on one biscuit half and a sad face on the other biscuit half.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When Hannah turned to God, what happened?**
- **Why does God want us to put our hope in him?**

Hold up a sad-faced biscuit.

Say: **Hannah turned to God when she was sad. She put her hope in God.** Hold up a happy-faced biscuit. **God blessed Hannah with a son, and she was very happy.**

Invite a child to offer a prayer of thanks for the snack and for Hannah's example.



Center 2: Happy and Sad Faces Supplies

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- scissors
 - resealable plastic bags
 - plastic knives
 - napkins
 - 1 biscuit per child
 - butter
 - jelly

Center 2: Happy and Sad Faces Easy Prep

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Cut a small slit in one corner of each of several resealable plastic bags to create squeezable jelly containers.

! **ALLERGY ALERT**





Center 3: I Am Sad When... Supplies

newsprint
tape
crayons
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Sad, Slow Music"
(track 17); "Happy,
Lively Music" (track
18)

Center 3: I Am Sad When... Easy Prep

Tape a large sheet of newsprint to a wall. Each child in the learning center will need about 2 feet of newsprint on which to draw.

Center 4: Happy Shakers Supplies

vinyl tablecloth or newspaper
one 20-ounce plastic pop bottle per child
large bowl of dry rice
funnel
small scoop
smiley stickers
glue
metallic confetti (optional)

CENTER 3:

I Am Sad When...

What You'll Do

Set out crayons. Play the "Sad, Slow Music" (track 17 on the CD). Have the children show you how they look and move when they're sad. For example, they could frown, droop their shoulders, walk slowly, sit down, and put their chins in their hands. Then, instruct the children to draw pictures on the newsprint of things that make them sad.

Next, play the "Happy, Lively Music" (track 18 on the CD). Have the children show you how they look and move when they're happy. For example, they could smile, laugh, hop, and skip to the music. Have partners help each other hop and skip, because friends can make us happy! Then have the children draw pictures of things that make them happy.

Have kids each turn to a partner and tell their partners about what they've drawn.

Ask:

- How can God help you feel better when you're sad?
- Who else does God use to comfort you and make you happy?

Say: **God used the priest to comfort Hannah when she was sad. God uses people like your parents or guardians, brothers, sisters, or friends to help you feel better when you are sad. God can use our friends to comfort us.**

CENTER 4:

Happy Shakers

■ ■ ■ **Tip** Send this note home with the children for their parents to help them affirm that they can turn to God when they are sad.

Dear Parents,
Today your child made a "Happy Shaker" instrument as a reminder to play music and praise God when he or she is sad. Take time this week to sing "Turn to God" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" with your child as you "play" the Happy Shakers together.

🎵 **Turn, turn, turn to God, when you're feeling sad.
He will take your gloomy face, and make your heart feel glad!**

Thank you for affirming your child's need to turn to God in times of sadness.





What You'll Do

Ask:

- Can you think of a time you were really sad? What did you do to feel better?

Say: **Today we are going to make something that will make us feel better when we're unhappy and that will remind us to turn to God when we're sad.**

Spread a vinyl tablecloth or newspaper on the floor for the children to work on. Give children each an empty plastic soda bottle. Help each child put the funnel in the top of the pop bottle and use the scoop to pour rice into the bottle. Fill each bottle half full. You may add some pieces of metallic confetti if desired. Put glue around the inside of the bottle caps, and screw them tightly onto the bottles. Have the children add smiley stickers to the outside of their bottles to decorate them. Lead the children in singing "Turn to God" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Show children how to use their shakers as joyous instruments as they sing.



**Turn, turn, turn to God, when you're feeling sad.
He will take your gloomy face, and make your heart feel glad!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes you sad?
- What makes you happy?
- How can God help us be glad instead of sad?

Say: **When we are sad, we can use our Happy Shakers to sing songs and praise God. Praising God with music makes us feel happy inside.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Playground





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that you can ► **TURN TO GOD WHEN YOU'RE SAD.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how you can turn to God.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Ask your mom or dad for a sheet of smiley face stickers. Wear a sticker on your hand each day this week to help you remember you can turn to God when you're sad.
2. Create your own song about how much God loves you. Sing your new song any time you feel sad.
3. Tell a friend how Hannah turned to God when she was sad. Share with your friend how you can turn to God when you're sad, too.

Say: If you want to wear a sticker, circle choice number 1. If you want to create a song, circle choice number 2. If you want to tell a friend about Hannah, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Rhyming Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say this rhyming prayer and have kids act it out. Have them repeat the actions after you.

Dear God, when I'm full of tears, *(make a sad face)*

Help me to turn to you. *(turn around in a circle)*

When I'm feeling full of fears, *(look scared)*

Help me hope in you. *(raise both arms up)*

Thank you for your comfort; *(pat a neighbor's back)*

Thank you for your care; *(pat another neighbor's back)*

Thank you that you're with us, *(place both hands on heart)*

Dear God, everywhere. *(hold both hands out in front of you)*

Have children repeat the following words after you: "In Jesus' name, amen."

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

