

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Kings and Prophets

HANNAH

I Samuel 1-2

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Thirteen

[0380]

AIM: to use the story of Hannah to teach my students that God answers prayer

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A magic wand

A picture of a woman with several children

A picture of a woman with no children (Hannah)

A picture of the temple in Shiloh

A picture of Hannah with a baby

Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Have you ever heard someone tell a story where someone in the story had a **magic wand**? I remember hearing the story of Cinderella, and the fairy godmother had a **magic wand** that she used to make a beautiful gown, a royal coach, and some big white horses for Cinderella. I also heard the story of Sleeping Beauty, where there were three good witches who had **magic wands**. And have any of you ever seen *The Wizard of Oz*? In *The Wizard of Oz*, Glenda the good witch had a **magic wand**.

The thing about all three of those stories is that they are make-believe. Those stories didn't really happen. They are just pretend. But it sure would be fun to have a **magic wand**, wouldn't it? If you wanted to stop it from raining, all you'd have to do is **wave your magic wand**, and the rain would stop. If you wanted an ice-cream cone, you could just **wave your magic wand**, and you would have one. If you wanted a new toy, you could **wave your magic wand**, and you would have it.

But you know that, just like those stories, magic wands are make-believe. There is no such thing as a magic wand.

But listen...God has something better than a magic wand. God says that if you really, really want something, and if you will pray and pray and pray for it, **He will answer you**.

Today I am going to tell you about a lady in the Bible who really, really wanted something, and so she prayed and prayed and prayed for it. Let's find out what happened to her.

STORY: The Bible tells us about a man named *Elkanah*. Elkanah lived in the land of Israel. Back in those days it was a common thing for men to have more than one wife. Often a man would have 2 or 3 or 4 wives at the same time. We know that that is not right today, but in those days many people did it. Elkanah had two wives. His one wife was named *Peninnah*, and his other wife was named *Hannah*. Peninnah had some sons and daughters, but Hannah did not have any children. Peninnah would often laugh at Hannah and tease her, because Hannah wanted children, but the Lord had not given her any. Has anybody ever laughed at you? It's no fun, is it? And it especially hurts when somebody laughs at you about something that you really wish was not true, but you know it is true. We should never want to hurt people by laughing at them and teasing them about things that they wish weren't true.

Every year, Elkanah would take his whole family to the city of Shiloh. In the city of Shiloh was the temple, where the people of Israel went to offer their sacrifices and give their offerings to God. It was a very special time of year, and everybody enjoyed praising God for all of His blessings to them. But for Hannah, it was a very difficult time. You see, Peninnah would be extra mean to Hannah when they all went to Shiloh. Peninnah would pray and say things like this: "*Dear Lord, thank you for loving me so much that you blessed me with so many children. You must have known that I would make a good mommy. I'm sure glad that I am not like some other people that I know, who have no children.*" She wasn't really thankful; she was just saying those things to make Hannah feel bad. Every year it got worse and worse, until Hannah began to dread going to the House of the Lord in Shiloh.

One year when Elkanah and his family made their trip to Shiloh, Peninnah was meaner than she had ever been before. Hannah worked very hard not to let Peninnah's hateful words bother her; but every time it was time for the family to eat, Hannah was so upset that she could not eat. Elkanah called Hannah off to the side and said, "Don't be upset, Hannah. I love you more than anything else in the whole world. If the Lord has chosen not to give you a child, can't you just be content to be married to a husband who loves you with all of his heart?"

Hannah could not answer. But after dinner was over, Hannah went to the House of the Lord, and she just cried and prayed and prayed and cried. Have you ever cried so much that nobody could understand what you were saying? That's

how much Hannah cried. Hannah's lips were moving, but she was praying silently in her heart. But God knew what Hannah was saying. And as she prayed, Hannah made God a promise: "Lord, if you will give me a son, then I will give him back to you, so that he will become whatever you want him to become."

While Hannah was in the temple praying, Eli the priest walked in. Eli was the man that God had put in charge of the house of God. Eli saw Hannah crying and praying, but he could not hear what she was saying. Eli saw her lips moving, but he did not hear any words. So Eli thought that Hannah was drunk. Eli thought, "How dare someone come into the house of God drunk!" Eli walked over to where Hannah was, and began to scold her for being drunk in the house of God.

Hannah stopped praying and stopped crying, and when she was able to control herself, she said, "Sir, I am not drunk. I have a broken heart because there is something that I want God to do. I was crying like that because I was begging God to answer my prayer."

Eli said, "Dear lady, may God answer your prayer."

Hannah got up, and she left the temple with peace in her heart that God was going to answer her prayer.

Sure enough, shortly after they returned to their home, Hannah found out that she was going to have a baby. Before long, the baby was born, and it was a baby boy. Hannah knew that God had answered her prayer. Hannah kept her word and gave the baby back to God.

Have you ever wanted something so bad that you were willing to pray for it the way that Hannah prayed for it? I don't mean that you asked God for it one time. I mean that you prayed and prayed and prayed. I mean that you cried and begged God, and spent a lot of time on your knees asking God to work.

Some people say, "Well, I asked God for something one time, and He didn't answer." First of all, if you didn't get what you prayed for, God did answer—He said, "No, that's not good for you." But second of all, God doesn't promise to be your magic wand. He doesn't say, "Anything you want, just ask for it one time, and I will do it." But God does promise that if you will pray and pray and pray until you get an answer, that He will answer you.

You know, when you begin to beg God for something, like Hannah did, God may answer you by making you realize that what you are asking for is not really worth begging for. For example, it is not worth your time to beg and beg and beg God for some new toy. You may think it is important at first, but God will teach you that it is not as important as you think it is.

So, what are some things that really are worth begging God for?

1. For the people you love to be saved. People who do not know Jesus will pay for their own sins forever in an awful place called hell. Getting saved is very simple, but some people just don't want to do it. It would be well worth your time to beg God to help those people want to get saved. And then go to those people and tell them yourself how to be saved.

2. For family problems. Maybe at your house there are problems that make you very upset. There may be problems that you don't want anybody to know about, but they are problems that break your heart. Those are problems worth begging God about.

3. For your neighborhood. Every one of us sees things happen in our neighborhood that worry us, scare us, or bother us. Drugs, guns, violence, and crime are problems that come to every neighborhood, rich, poor, and in between. You should beg God to work in your neighborhood.

4. For your country. If you listen to the news, it may cause you to worry about the future of your country. There are many problems in America that only God can fix. You should beg God to work in your country.

5. For your own future. You only have one life. You ought to want the greatest future that you can possibly have, and God wants to give it to you. But are you willing to ask God again and again and again to work in your life? God answers the prayers of those who are serious about praying. Do you know what God did for Hannah? He gave her a boy who grew up and brought his entire nation back to God. His name was *Samuel*, and he was one of the greatest men in the entire Bible. **And**, God gave Hannah many more children after that. God answers prayer, but you must be willing to pray and pray and pray.

Let's learn our memory verse: **Psalm 1:1** – *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Kings and Prophets

HANNAH

I Samuel 1-2

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Thirteen

[0380]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. GOD SOMETIMES ALLOWS “BARRENNESS” OR EMPTINESS IN OUR LIVES TO CAUSE US TO SEEK HIM. I Samuel 1:2, 5. There are many types of barrenness—physical handicaps, poverty, a one-parent home, etc. Notice that in Hannah’s case, God CAUSED her barrenness. Why does God do this? Because barrenness drives us to seek God. Barrenness is often an indication that God wants to do something special through you.

- II. THE PERSON WHO HAS NO LACK OFTEN FINDS NO REASON TO BEG GOD. I Samuel 1:2, 6. Peninnah, Hannah’s rival, certainly took for granted the fact that she had children. She was not thankful, and had no need to plead with God to give her a child. In a real way, it was ultimately Peninnah who was handicapped. If God has withheld from you something that everyone else seems to have, He has blessed you with the opportunity to truly seek Him.

- III. BARRENNESS OUGHT TO CAUSE YOU TO ASK THE BIG QUESTIONS. I Samuel 1:8. These are questions that Elkanah asked Hannah, but they are questions that Hannah had certainly already considered herself. Her prayer and her conversation with Eli indicate that she had asked some big questions over the years as a result of her lack. Gideon, Elisha, and the woman at the well are just a few examples of people who asked the big questions, and as a result, received big answers. But often we cannot see clearly to ask the big questions until we find that we have nothing.

- IV. WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING, IT IS EASIER TO GIVE EVERYTHING. I Samuel 1:11, 28. Hannah was empty. She had nothing to lose. She came to the place where she had no problem telling God that if He were to give her a son, she would give him back to Him. It is good for us to be put in the place where we realize we have absolutely nothing, and we are absolutely nothing, without God. The man who understands that everything he is and has is because of God’s grace, will be far more likely to let go of self and give God all. On the other hand, the person who has everything most often holds on to it with all that he has. The rich man will never take the step of faith of giving his last dollar; but many a poor man or woman has given their last dollar many times over.

- V. WHEN WE POUR OUT OUR SOUL BEFORE GOD, WE GET HIS ATTENTION. I Samuel 1:10, 15. If you were to do a study of tears in the Bible, you would find that God responds in a special way to the genuine tears of people. Psalm 126:5-6. God sees our tears, and He goes to work for us when He sees our tears. We should be willing to pour out our souls before God, to be passionate about the things that really matter, and to let go of our emotions in His presence.

HANNAH

I Samuel 1-2

[0380]

A Barren Woman Gives Birth to a Prophet

I. I SAMUEL 1:1-8 Hannah's Burden

1-2 Hannah's family

3-5 Elkanah's love

6-8 Hannah's grief

II. I SAMUEL 1:9-18 Hannah's Prayer

9-11 Hannah's vow

12-14 Eli's rebuke

15-18 Eli's blessing

III. I SAMUEL 1:19-28 Samuel's Birth

19-20 Samuel is born

21-28 Hannah keeps her promise

IV. I SAMUEL 2 The LORD's Blessing

1-10 Hannah's praise

11, 18 Samuel's service

19 Hannah's devotion

20-21 Hannah's children

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

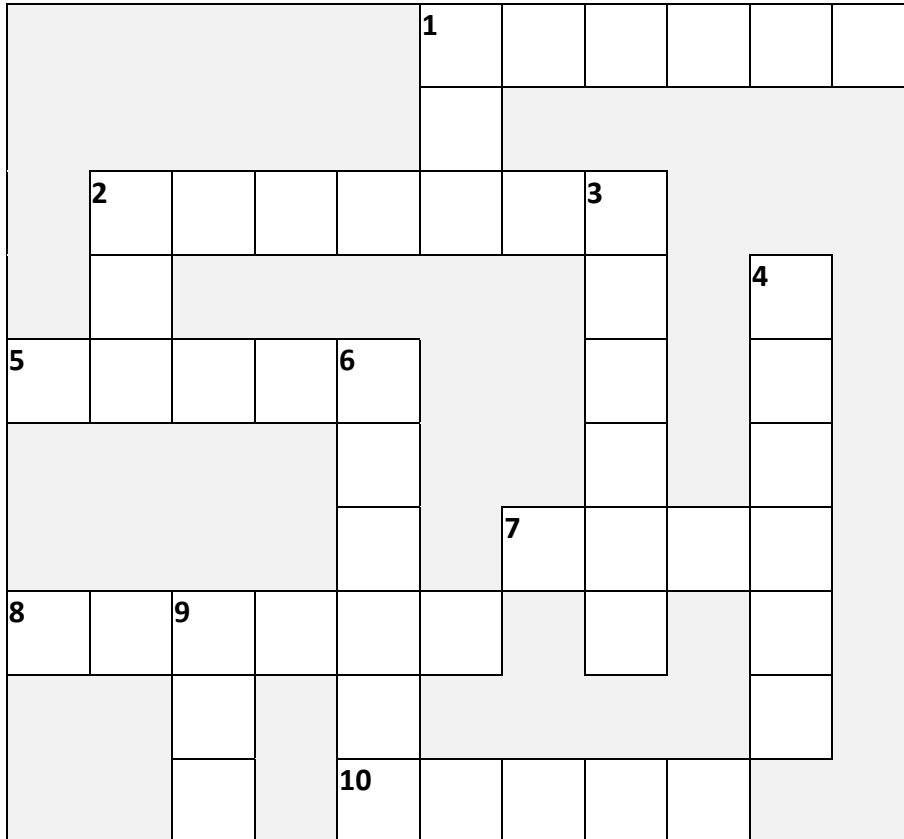
Psalm 1:1

Hannah

I Samuel 1-2

[0380]

Complete the crossword puzzle below using words from the Scripture passage and information from today's lesson.



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Hannah named her son _____
- 2 Hannah's husband was named _____
- 5 Even though it was wrong, it was common in those days for a man to have two _____
- 7 Hannah wanted to have a _____
- 8 Hannah went into the _____ to pray
- 10 Hannah prayed silently in her _____

- 1 Hannah asked God to give her a _____
- 2 _____ was the priest in the house of the Lord
- 3 _____ did not have any children
- 4 Hannah _____ for God to give her a son
- 6 The temple was then in the city of _____
- 9 Hannah was so excited to become a _____

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

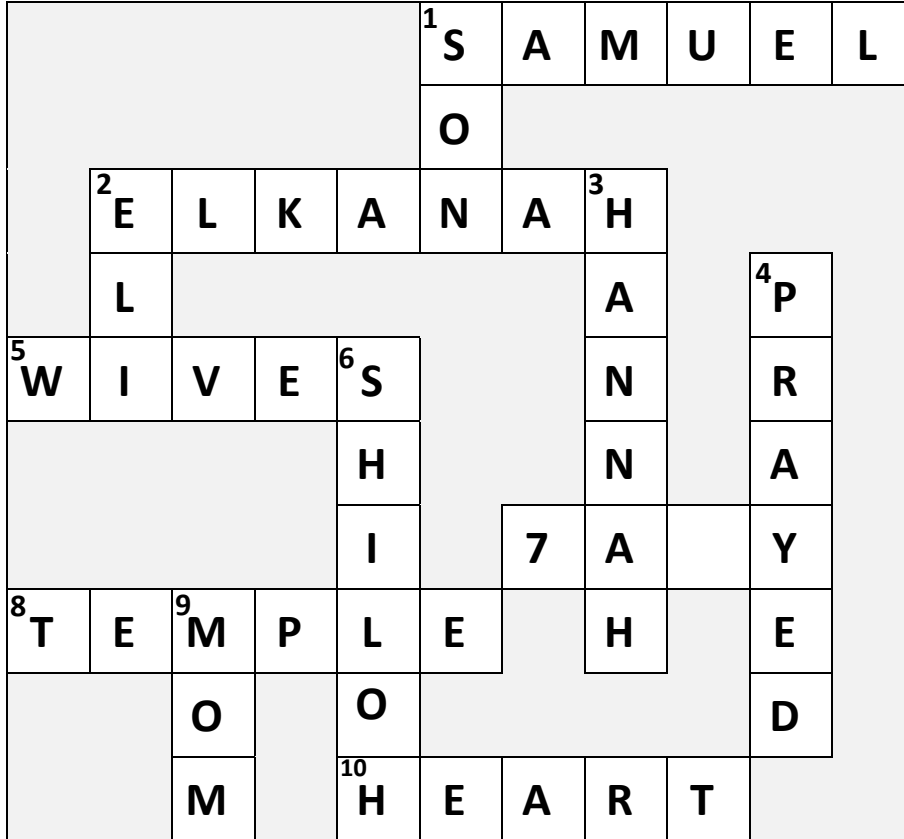
Psalm 1:1

Hannah

I Samuel 1-2

[0380]

The answers to this week's puzzle



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Hannah named her son _____
- 2 Hannah's husband was named _____
- 5 Even though it was wrong, it was common in those days for a man to have two _____
- 7 Hannah wanted to have a _____
- 8 Hannah went into the _____ to pray
- 10 Hannah prayed silently in her _____

- 1 Hannah asked God to give her a _____
- 2 _____ was the priest in the house of the Lord
- 3 _____ did not have any children
- 4 Hannah _____ for God to give her a son
- 6 The temple was then in the city of _____
- 9 Hannah was so excited to become a _____