



LESSON 6: GOD HEARS HANNAH'S PRAYER FOR A SON

CORE BIBLE: GOD HEARS HANNAH'S PRAYER FOR A SON

Supplies

- Bible
- red construction paper
- scissors
- pens
- plain white paper
- markers
- tape
- colorful paper
- reflective music (optional)
- upbeat praise music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Talk About It

Think about something you really, **really** want for your next birthday. Explain whether you think it's okay to ask God for that gift.

Today we're going to learn that God hears our prayers. I want to make sure you know that **doesn't** mean we can treat God like a vending machine. Prayer isn't about just making a wish list and expecting God to give us everything we want. But it's okay to talk to God about what we want. Let's look at today's true Bible story to think more about what prayer really means.

We're going to learn from the Bible about how a woman named Hannah prayed. Hannah really wanted a son, but she didn't have one. In Bible times, men sometimes had more than one wife. Hannah's husband was also married to a woman named Peninnah, who did have children. Here's how Peninnah treated Hannah.

1 Samuel 1:6

⁶ So Peninnah would taunt Hannah and make fun of her because the LORD had kept her from having children.

Tell about a time someone made fun of you. It hurts when people make fun of us. But this was **especially** hurtful to Hannah because it hit a sore spot. Hannah really wanted a baby. Hannah's desire for a baby was different from the things we said we'd want for our birthdays. This was a deep desire of her heart, so she prayed to God for a baby.

1 Samuel 1:10-11

¹⁰ *Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD .*

¹¹ *And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut. "*

Cut out a heart out of the red construction paper, and then think about your heart's desire. Remember, this is different from wanting a video game or a new phone. Hannah was really hurting because she wanted a baby so badly. Think about it this way: What would you ask God to change about your family, friendships, or even yourself? What really makes your heart hurt? Write or draw on your heart what you would ask God. No one else will see it; this is between you and God.

Pray: God, we can't see the desires on these paper hearts. But you see them, just as you see inside our human hearts. We ask that you'll hear our prayers and satisfy our hearts' desires. In Jesus' name, amen.

God hears our prayers. He sees our hearts' desires, and he hears when we ask him for help.

Thank

God hears our prayers. And he heard Hannah's prayer. This is what happened.

1 Samuel 1:20

²⁰ *and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the LORD for him."*

Although this verse doesn't use the word **thanks**, Hannah named her baby based on the fact that he was an answer to prayer. She showed a thankful attitude. Let's give thanks to God, too.

Let's think of things we want to thank God for, and we'll use each letter of the alphabet to come up with a list. Say something to be thankful for that starts with A, then say something that starts with B, and so on. If you want, you can skip the really hard letters like Q, X, and Z. So let's pray!

God hears our prayers, including our prayers of thanks.

Give to God

We talked about asking God for things, but we can **give** to God, too. That's what Hannah did next. She remembered her promise to God, and she was thankful that God heard her prayer. She took Samuel to the Tabernacle to give him to God.

1 Samuel 1:27-28

²⁷ *I asked the LORD to give me this boy, and he has granted my request.*

²⁸ *Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.*

Think about a gift you could give God. A good gift is something that is a little hard to give up. Maybe it's giving some of your time or helping your brother or sister when you don't feel like it. Write or draw your gift on a blank piece of paper. Then decorate the other side of your paper to look like wrapping paper. Fold it up, and tape it together like a gift.

Since Hannah returned to the Tabernacle where she'd asked for a son, let's return to our wall of hearts and give our gifts to God. Place your gift(s) in front of your heart.

God hears our prayers, and we can respond to him by giving back to him.

Praise

Hannah can teach us one more kind of prayer.

1 Samuel 1:28

²⁸ Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.

Worship or praise often means telling God things we love about him. For example: I love you, God, because you're... Share your own ending to the sentence.

Now it's your turn. Cut out strips of colorful paper, about 1 inch tall and 4 inches wide. On your strips of paper, write **your** endings to the sentence, "I love you, God, because you're..."

Stand up and throw your papers like confetti while shouting out your praises to God.

God hears our prayers. He loves to hear our praise and worship!