

WEEK of November 7 and 10
ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Step two, talk to God.

THE BIBLE

Hannah Prays for a Baby: 1 Samuel 1:4-20;
Psalm 16

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

Both Grade 1 - 3 and 4/5 will do this ACTIVITY | Blind Cooking Challenge, Supplies needed: cucumber slices, sliced cheese, lunch meat, plates, mayo, blindfolds, DROPCLOTH!!

- Let's have a blind cooking challenge! Can you imagine having to cook something blindfolded? That is *whisky* business and would probably be frustrating. It'd be a little easier if you had someone to talk you through the steps, though!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Have two, pairs of kids come to the front. Set out the cucumber slices, sliced cheese, and pieces of lunch meat, along with plates. Blindfold one of the kids from each pair.*

Grades 4/5: *To add a layer of difficulty for the preteen crowd, have kids spread jam while blindfolded.*

- One of you will be blindfolded and will be preparing a simple appetizer. You will make three cucumber sandwiches. The partner will help by using *only* verbal communication to help — that means no hands!
- [*Give them a few minutes and see who is the closest to completing the task. Afterwards, interview the blindfolded kids about their experience.*]
- **What made it easier for you to find things and put the sandwiches together? What advice would you have for someone if they were to do the challenge next?**
- That wasn't an easy *peasy* task! They couldn't see who they were talking to, but they knew their partner was there to help them. Having someone to talk to and ask questions helped a ton!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | Hannah Prays for a Baby, Supplies needed: Bibles, paper, scissors, pen

- This month our theme is Plate It! And today we will tune into the Bible story segment of The Plate It Cooking Show? I need my sous chef to help me with all the “ingredients” I need for the Bible story!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Choose volunteers today to help you tell today's story from 1 Samuel 1:4–20.*

- There were some amazing prophets in the Bible. **Who remembers what a prophet's job was?** A prophet was someone chosen by God to speak for God to the people who needed to hear God's message.
- Today, we're going to *dip* into the story of a prophet, which began with his mother before he was even born!
- *[Read verses 4–6.]*
 - Even though Hannah was loved very much, she was very sad because she didn't have any children of her own.
 - But that's not all. Hannah was being teased because she couldn't have children. She was irritated, or annoyed, in the beginning.
 - **Can someone show us what an annoyed face looks like?**
- *[Read verses 7–8.]*
 - Because the teasing went on for so long, Hannah began to cry and not eat!
 - **Can someone show us what a sad, weepy face look like?**
- *[Read verses 9–10.]*
 - Hannah was distraught. She didn't know what to do. So she went to the temple and began to pray.
 - **Could someone read for us what Hannah prayed in verse 11?**
- *[Read verses 12–14.]*
 - Eli, the priest, thought Hannah had too much to drink because he couldn't hear what Hannah was praying.
 - **Why couldn't Eli hear?** Because she was praying in her heart. **Could someone make us one heart out of this paper?**
- *[Read verses 15–16.]*
 - Hannah had some big emotions on her heart. **Did you catch any of them?**
 - **Can someone help us write down some of these emotions on the heart.** *[Re-read the portions with “deeply troubled,” “great anguish,” and “grief,” and write those words on the heart.]*
- *[Read verses 17–18, flipping the heart over and writing “peace” and “favor” on it as you read those words.]*
 - Hannah was no longer downcast after praying to God, receiving Eli's kind words.
 - **Can you all show me your sad, downcast faces? Now turn that frown upside down!**

- *[Read verses 19–20.]*
 - When Hannah felt all these emotions inside of her, what did she do? She talked to God about it! She prayed and poured out her soul to God. God made it possible for her to have a son, and Samuel would grow up to be a spec-*tac*olar prophet for God!

BIG IDEA | Step two, talk to God, Supplies needed: Paper plate with Big Idea written on it.

Whether we have big or small emotions, happy or sad news, praises or frustrations, God wants us to talk about it all! Especially as we prepare to do the work God called us to do, remember: **step two, talk to God.** Step one is Trusting God! Remember when cooking there are always several steps.

VIDEO | Plate It, Episode 2

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's Video.*

REFLECTION | Recipe Card, Step One

INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the recipe card aloud for the kids. Review the Big Idea and have each kid fill in the blanks on their recipe card. Then invite them to have a time of reflection and write down their response to the question.*

Step one, trust God. What do I need to trust God with today?

REFLECTION | Recipe Card, Step Two

INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the recipe card aloud for the kids. Review the Big Idea and have the kids fill in the blanks on their recipe cards. Then invite them to have a time of reflection and write down their responses to the prompt.*

Step two, talk to God. Write about the top three things on your prayer list.

DISCUSSION

- Why was Hannah so deeply troubled?
- What did Hannah promise God if she was given a son?
- Why did Hannah name her baby Samuel?
- Read 1 Samuel 1:18. Hannah had more peace after talking to God. Have you ever experienced God's peace in your heart after talking to God?
- Do you ever feel like you can't talk with God about something? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God wants us to pray?
- What is one thing you want to tell God right now?

ACTIVITY ONE | Toque to God, Supplies needed: markers,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC4nOC_nSCQ

- God loves it when we pray. Sometimes it's helpful to write out our prayers. Let's write or draw a prayer to God on the brim of our chef's hats, or toques!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Hand out one chef's hat per kid and invite the kids to write or draw their prayer. After they are finished, let them decorate their hats.*

ACTIVITY TWO | SPEAK OUT! Supplies needed: Speak out mouth pieces, phrases.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Choose a few volunteers to come forward. Split the group into as many teams as there are kids up front and assign each volunteer to a team. Give them a sentence to communicate to their team. The catch is they need to have the speak out mouth piece in their mouths (It's not as easy as it seems)*

- Was it frustrating that your team could not really understand what you were saying because they couldn't hear you?
- Thank *goud*ness we never have to worry about that with God! God heard Hannah's prayer even when she was not speaking out loud, and God listens to our prayers whether we are talking out loud, whether God can understand what we are say, or not.

ACTIVITY THREE | Talk-to-Me Scenarios

INSTRUCTIONS: *Invite the kids to imagine themselves in the scenarios you're about to read to them. Ask kids to name an emotion they might feel and/or what they could talk to God about in that situation.*

- Scenario 1: You're at a busy grocery store. You turn around, and your parent is nowhere in sight. You start running up and down the aisles looking for them.
- Scenario 2: Your parent said to wait until after dinner to have a cookie. You storm out of the kitchen, stomping your feet. You really want to take the cookie now without permission.
- Scenario 3: You were teased at school for the lunch you brought from home today, and you cried.
- Scenario 4: Your grandparent just cooked your favorite meal!
- There are so different kinds of situations we find ourselves in each day, and God wants to hear about it from us! Don't forget, **step two, talk to God.**

BIBLE | Psalm 16

INSTRUCTIONS: *Find Psalm 16 in your Bible, and choose a few verses in Psalm 16 to draw attention to.*

- What kinds of things did David, the writer of Psalm 16, talk to God about in these verses?
 - David requested that God would keep him safe (*verse 1*).
 - Nothing else mattered to David if he didn't have God (*verse 2*).

- God was the only thing David needed. David was confident in God's ability to keep him safe (*verse 5*).
- David praised God for guiding him (*verse 7*).
- David told God that he would be faithful to God (*verse 8*).
- David ended by saying how he had joy and was hopeful in the future that God has planned for him (*verses 9-11*).
- There are so many things we can talk to God about. Sometimes we can get *whisked* up in just asking God for things. But we can talk to God like we talk to anybody.
- Jesus made this possible for us. Remember in today's Bible story, Hannah and her family had to offer sacrifices and they had to hear from God through a priest? But because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can talk directly to God whenever we want.
- So don't skip this step in our recipe in your life with God: **step two, talk to God.**

PRAYER AND BLESSING

Ask if anyone in your small group want to close in prayer. If not, read the following prayer.

Dear God, thank you for being so easy to talk to. You never stop listening to us! Help us remember that we can talk to you anywhere, anytime, and about anything. Amen.

Trace the sign of the cross on each person's forehead and say, "God never stops listening because he loves you."