

## Hannah Prays

There once was a woman named Hannah. Hannah's husband, Elkanah, loved her very much and they lived in a town called Ramah. Even though it was against God's rules, Elkanah had two wives. His other wife was named Peninah, and she had many children. Hannah was barren, she had no children. Her body did not work in a way that would let her have a baby and people thought because of that, she was not as good as other women. Peninah teased Hannah about it all the time and made Hannah very sad.

Three times every year Elkanah would take his family and travel to a town called Shiloh for a feast and to worship God. While they were there, Peninah was being very mean to Hannah and Hannah became so sad that it made her sick. She couldn't even eat. Elkanah tried to make Hannah feel better by telling her how much he loved her but this time she was too sad for that to help very much.

Hannah went to the temple to pray. Hannah prayed asking God to not forget about her and how much she wanted to have a baby. Hannah even promised God that if he would give her a baby boy, she would give him back to God. She would let him live and grow in the temple so he could be a great helper to the priest and to God. Hannah was praying with her whole heart. She was crying and saying the words with her lips, but no sound was coming out of her mouth, not even a whisper. While she was praying, the priest named Eli, saw her. He could see her crying and her mouth moving. He thought she had been drinking something she shouldn't have, and it was making her act crazy. He asked her what she was drinking. She answered him that she wasn't doing crazy things she was just praying so hard asking God to help her. Eli could see that her heart was broken and told her to go back home in peace and God would hear her request. Hannah left the temple and felt much better. She had given her problem to God, and she was going to patiently wait for Him to take care of things. God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a baby. She named her baby boy Samuel and loved him very much. After a few years, Hannah kept her promise to God and took Samuel to live in the temple with Eli so he could grow and serve God.