



LESSON 1

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-18; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 569, 570.

Hannah's Special Baby

Have you ever felt really sad about something? So sad that you cried? That's how Hannah felt.

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t's time to get ready for our trip to the tabernacle at Shiloh," Elkanah may have said to his wife Hannah one morning. "It's almost time for the feast."

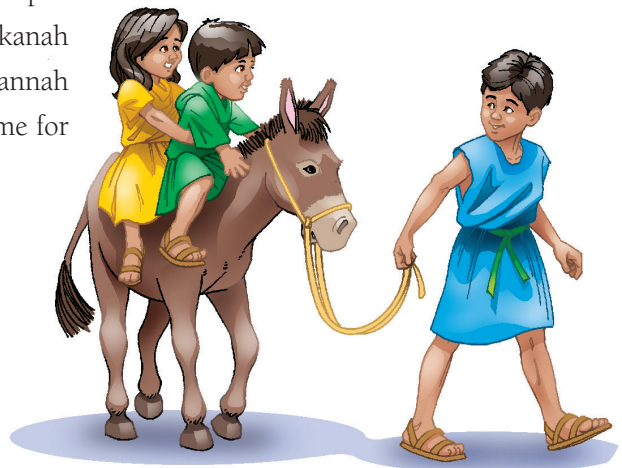
Hannah smiled. "I'll pack everything we will need," she may have replied.

Each year Hannah and Elkanah traveled to Shiloh to worship at the tabernacle there. But every time they went to Shiloh,

Hannah felt a bit sad.

Hannah may have thought back to the early days of their marriage and how much she wanted children. But years had gone by and Hannah had not had any babies. Oh, how much she and Elkanah would love to have a baby.

Finally Elkanah and Hannah began their journey. The road was crowded with other families. And it seemed as if every family had children. How Hannah wished she had a child.



Memory Verse

"May . . . God . . . grant you what you have asked of him."

1 SAMUEL 1:17, NIV.

The Message

We serve God when we help others.

At Shiloh they worshipped in the tabernacle. When it was time for the special feast meal, Elkanah gave Hannah an extra serving. He wanted to make up for the child she didn't have. Hannah closed her eyes tightly, but little tears leaked out.

"Hannah," Elkanah said, "don't be sad because you have no children. Isn't having me better than having 10 sons?" he teased.

After the meal Hannah slipped away to the tabernacle. "O Lord," she prayed, "if You gave me a son, I would give him back to You. He would serve You all his life!"

Eli, an old priest, watched Hannah closely. Her lips moved, but no sound came out.

The old priest was sure she had been drinking wine. "What are you doing coming in here drunk?" he demanded.

Hannah was shocked. "I'm not drunk!" she exclaimed. "I was just pouring out my problem to the Lord."

Eli's frown disappeared. "In that case, cheer up!" He smiled. "May the God of Israel give you what you asked for."

Hannah suddenly felt her great cloud of sadness disappear. She looked peaceful as she went back to Elkanah. Eli had prayed that God would give her what she asked for. Hannah just *knew* God was going to answer her prayer for a son!

And that made her very happy.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story together and use the following to review the memory verse:

- May . . . God . . .** Point upward.
grant you Hands out in front with palms up as if giving.
what you Hands folded in
have asked prayer.
of him. Point upward.
1 Samuel 1:17. . . Palms together; then open.

SUNDAY

Read portions of 1 Samuel 1:1-18 together. Ask: How can you help others to be happy? Remind your child to share Jesus' love by giving the "J" made in Sabbath School to someone.

MONDAY

Act out the story with your family. Help your child draw a happy face for each family member and give it to them while telling how they make him or her happy.

Sing a happy song.

TUESDAY

Ask: What can our family do to bring happiness to someone? Plan to do something today with your family, such as baking something for a neighbor.

Before prayer, sing a song about helping.

WEDNESDAY

Tell about a time you were sad, you prayed, and Jesus helped you to be happy again.

Let your child hold a baby doll and sing a lullaby. Thank Jesus for babies.



THURSDAY

Together, point to baby toys in a catalog or magazine and ask: Would that make you happy forever? Say: When you were a baby this made you happy. Why not now? Maybe because you are growing and you change as you grow. Even though we may outgrow things that once made us happy, Jesus makes us happy forever.

Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It." Ask Jesus to make your child happy.

FRIDAY

During worship tonight, read about Hannah and Samuel in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 570 (three paragraphs).

Show your child his or her baby pictures. Talk about how you looked forward to having a child.

Sing songs about happiness; then thank God for blessings this week.

