

**THEME FOR UNIT 1:** God Gives Us Families

**UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE:** John 13:34

**CHURCH/HOME THEME:** Our God Gives

# GOD GIVES HANNAH A BABY



Lesson Video for Step 2!  
Check out the contents  
page for details.

## BIBLE BASIS

Hannah and her husband have baby Samuel (1 Sam. 1:1-23).

## BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us families.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Love one another.”  
John 13:34

## LESSON AIM

Students will learn that families come from God.

## 1 LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Students will talk about their families

**Materials:** “The Family” Teaching Aid 2

## 2 BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with large pictures the Bible story about Hannah, Elkanah, and the baby God gave them—Samuel
- Review the Bible story with questions

**Materials:** Bible, “God Gives Hannah a Baby” Teaching Aid 3

## 3 BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Practice the Bible memory verse with a rhyme
- Make a craft picture of baby Samuel



**Materials:** *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 1, crayons;  
*Optional*—cloth scraps, baby blanket

## 4 LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about a loving family God gave two children
- Thank God for the families He has given them



**Materials:** *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 1 and Family Card A



**This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.**



## Understanding the Bible

Samuel's story begins in the hill country of Ephraim (EE-fray-m) at a place called Ramathaim (RAY-mah-THAY-m), near Shiloh. For about 300 years the Old Testament tabernacle was set up at Shiloh, so it became the worship center for Israel prior to Jerusalem (1 Sam. 1:3, 24; 4:3).

When one compares Zephaniah 1:1 with 1 Samuel 1:1, one can see that each verse traces the man being talked about back for four generations ("the son of" so-and-so is found four times). For Jewish people, family roots were very important.

Samuel's father, Elkanah, had two wives, which was common in early Bible times. In those days, polygamy was tolerated under the law of Moses (Deut. 21:15-17). However, it was not God's original intention, for as Jesus taught, it could cause great misery (Matt. 19:3-8).

The names of Elkanah's wives were Hannah and Peninnah. In the Bible, names often mean something special. The name "Hannah" means "grace." In 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Hannah praises God for how He has "graced" her with His favor.

Hannah had been childless—a tragedy for women of that day. Because children are a blessing from God, the absence of children was sometimes considered a punishment for sin. Peninnah may have suggested this and used it to hurt Hannah.

Bible-time Jewish men were required by law (Deut. 16:16) to attend three sacred festivals annually ("year after year;" 1 Sam. 1:7). The three required annual feasts were Passover (or Unleavened Bread), Pentecost (or Weeks), and Tabernacles (or Booths).

While attending a feast in Shiloh, the religious center of the nation at that time, Hannah left the feasting to pray at the tabernacle. She told God of her anguish over her childlessness. Hannah vowed that she would dedicate her child to the Lord's service (1 Sam. 1:11). Then she prayed, "May your servant find favor in your eyes" (vs. 18).

The priest, Eli, observed Hannah moving her lips without sound and reprimanded her for being drunk at the tabernacle. Hannah explained that she was not drunk but was praying because of her sorrow. When Hannah told him of her longing, she received his blessing.

Hannah conceived and a son was born. Hannah named her son Samuel, which means "asked of God" (vs. 20). Samuel was a special gift from God—not only for his parents, but also for all of Israel. Samuel served as a prophet and anointed Saul as king, then David.

## Understanding Your Students

This lesson deals with a much wanted and much loved baby. Your preschoolers need the security of knowing that they too are wanted and loved. They need to discover that they are a gift from God.

Each preschooler may have different issues depending on the care his or her family gives. In the Life Need section this week, children will talk about their families. The activity will help children focus positively on families and care.

## CLASSROOM TIPS

As you work with your children this week, here are more ways to help them feel secure and know that they are loved.

- Say the names of your students often to personalize the lesson for each child.
- Be aware of family situations so you can relate the lesson to each child. If a child lives with Dad, point out that the child and Dad are a family. If a child lives with her grandparents, explain that God gave her grandparents who could be her family, loving and caring for her.
- Point out that families show love in different ways. Some bring their children to Sunday school to learn about God's love; others teach them at home, and all want to hear what their child has learned.
- Mention similarities between Samuel's Bible-time family and your students' families.

## WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Guide your children to worship. **Worship time is a time when we tell God how much we love Him. We worship by giving offerings, singing songs, and praying.** You may use the song "Love One Another" on the PraisePAC audio files from your teaching aids packet, or sing a class **PraisePAC** favorite.
- Choose a child to collect offerings. Say a prayer for the offering.
- Thank God for families and their care. **Dear God, You give us everything we have. Thank You for giving us our families. We love our families. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## BEFORE CLASS

Kneel or pull up a low chair so you can look right at the children and give them a big smile as they arrive. Give each child a personal greeting. **I'm so glad to see you.**

**Today we will talk about families and how God gives us our families.**

Have children give their offerings. You may provide a special container or use a basket.

Before class, write each child's name on the Fall Attendance Chart

from your teaching aids packet. Show children how to mark the attendance chart using a small sticker, writing an X, or coloring a square.



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## GETTING STARTED

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of God giving Hannah and her husband a family.

**Bulletin Board:** Before class, remove page 3 of the *Make-It/Take-It* booklet and open the die-cut windows and door. Follow the directions for putting the display together. **God gives us families. Your family lives in a house.**



**Family Collage:** Provide magazines, scissors, glue sticks, crayons, and construction paper. Have children cut pictures from magazines to make a family collage. They can glue their pictures onto construction paper. **God gives us families. Tell me who the people are in your collage.**



# 1

## Life Need

3-5 minutes

**Objective:** Students will talk about their families.

Once the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, use the Teaching Aid 2 poster from your Creative Teaching Aids packet to talk about the different people in families. Identifying family members helps the children understand the Bible story where God gave baby Samuel to Hannah and her husband, Elkanah.

**I have a picture of a family that I would like to show you today.** (Show the poster, Teaching Aid 2.) **This family is enjoying the outdoors. Who do you see in the picture?** (Dad, mom, sisters, brother.)



**"The Family"**  
Teaching Aid 2

After the children have identified who is in the picture, point to a specific figure such as the man. **Who is this?** (Dad.) **What kinds of things does a dad do?** (The children may give a variety of answers including work, cook, mow the lawn, wash dishes, play, etc. Be aware that some children may not have a dad at home. If some of them talk about an uncle or grandfather, accept this as a perfectly reasonable answer.)

Point to the woman. **Who is this?** (Mom.) **What kinds of things does a mom do?** (Again this will have a variety of answers. Most will probably have to do with caring for a child, working, telling stories, etc.)

Continue by pointing one at a time to the older and younger sisters, and the brother. Some of your children will not have siblings. Ask them what they think it would be like to have a sister or a brother.

(Hold up the poster.) **We talked a lot about this family. Let's talk about your families.**

**Who are the people in your family?** (Children will have a variety of responses. They may include grandparents, aunts, or uncles. Affirm their answers.)

**What does your father do?** (Give time for the children to answer. Be sure the children include home activities such as read stories, cook, mow the lawn, give baths, etc., as well as workplace ideas. "I don't know" is a perfectly good answer.)

**What does your mother do?** (As with the previous questions, try to get the children to give details that make their families unique.)

**Our families are special. Today we're going to learn that God gives us families. Our Bible story today will tell us about a family that had no children. As you hear the story, listen for the mother's name and how God gave her a baby.**

# 2

## Bible Learning

10-15 minutes

**Objective:** Students will learn how God gave Samuel to his loving parents.

Show "God Gives Hannah a Baby" (Teaching Aid 3) as directed in the story below. Suggestions are made in parentheses within the story for ways your students can imitate you as you pretend to care for a baby.

### Bible Story

Today's story comes from the Bible. It is found in the book, or part, of the Bible called **1 Samuel**. (Show the children where *1 Samuel* is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to *1 Samuel 1* as you tell the story. Show Teaching Aid 3.) The Bible tells us that there once lived a woman named Hannah. (Point to Hannah.) She was married to a man named Elkanah [el-KAY-nuh]. (Point to her husband.) Hannah and Elkanah loved each other very much. But most of all they loved God.

God had made Hannah and Elkanah's family very special. But Hannah wanted their family to grow. She was sad they didn't have any children. (Point to baby Samuel. Put teaching aid aside.)

One day Hannah and Elkanah went to a special tent-church to worship God. While Hannah was there, she asked God for something special. (Fold hands as if praying.) Hannah prayed for a baby boy. She cried while she was praying, because she was so sad. She promised God that if He gave her a baby boy, she would have the boy serve God.

Eli, the priest at the tent-church, saw Hannah praying and crying. He saw that while she was praying, not a sound came out of her mouth. He talked to Hannah about what was wrong.

Hannah said, "I've been praying here because I am very sad."

Eli told her, "Go in peace. May God give you what you have prayed for."



"God Gives Hannah a Baby"  
Teaching Aid 3

Early the next day Hannah and Elkanah worshiped God and then walked home. She didn't feel quite so sad anymore.

Soon God answered Hannah's prayers. Hannah and Elkanah had a baby boy. They named him Samuel. (Bring out Teaching Aid 3 and point to Samuel on the poster.) God had given them baby Samuel for their family.

Hannah and Elkanah liked to take care of little Samuel. (Have the children pretend to hold a baby. Then have them rock and feed the "babies.") They gave him food to eat. They gave him milk to drink. They dressed him every day and kept him safe. (Let each child pretend to wrap a baby in a blanket.) And they loved Samuel. (Hug yourself.)

(Point to each person on the poster as you say his or her name.) Hannah and Elkanah were happy that God had given them little Samuel. They thanked God for Samuel and took very good care of him. They were glad that God had given them a family. God gives us families too.

### Bible Story Review

Review the Bible story with these questions. Children may point to Teaching Aid 3 as they give their answers.

1. Who prayed for a baby in the Bible story? (Hannah).
2. Who did God give to Hannah and Elkanah? (God gave them a baby boy, Samuel.)
3. How would you feel if you wanted something as much as Hannah wanted a baby? (Children may have a variety of answers. They may feel sad, want to cry, or be angry, and so on.)
4. Who gives us families? (God gives us families.)

# Bible Application

10 minutes

**Objective:** Students will learn that God gives them their families.

## Bible Memory Verse

Our Bible memory verse is in the rhyme we will learn today. Repeat the verse after me: "Love one another" John 13:34. God gives us families to love.

Teach this poem to your children.

### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

**God made me,**

*(Point to self.)*

**God made you.**

*(Point to someone else.)*

**God made my family, too!**

*(Hug self.)*

**God loves me,**

*(Point to self.)*

**God loves you.**

*(Point to someone.)*

**He said, "Love one another," too!**

*(Hug self.)*

Our Bible memory verse is in the poem. Did you hear it? "Love one another." Say the Bible memory verse together: "Love one another" John 13:34. Do the action rhyme again.

## Handcraft

Remove Lesson 1 from each child's *Make-It/Take-It* before class.

Let's make a picture of Hannah's baby, Samuel, to help you remember that God gives us families.

We can color the picture and add a blanket to keep the baby warm.

Optional—You may wish to bring a baby blanket for your students to

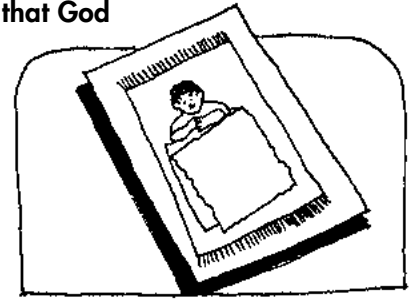
feel. Talk about the soft blankets babies need to keep warm.

Each child can choose a crayon to color the picture. Optional—Provide small pieces of fabric or colorful paper for your children to glue over the blankets.

Talk about how children are a gift from God and that God gives us families.

**Hannah took special care of Samuel. What things did she do?** (Fed him, gave him milk to drink, gave him clothes to wear, wrapped him in a blanket, loved him.)

**Show your picture to your family when you go home today. Your family will love to see what you are learning in Sunday school.**



Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 1



# 4

## Life Response

10 minutes

**Objective:** Students will learn that God gave them their families and thank God for them.

Read aloud to your students "God Made the Family" from *My Sunday Pictures*, Lesson 1 back.

### Present-Day Story

Anthony and Tiana were excited to go to church on Saturday. There was a special event at their church for families.

Anthony and Tiana and their mom and dad were excited to wear their matching T-shirts.

The pastor talked about how it is God's plan for each of us to have families.

Each family learned more about God from the Bible, they sang songs of praise, they prayed together for their family and for God's blessings. They made crafts together, and they even played games together.

"Anthony," Tiana said, "This was the best day ever! I am so happy we got to spend the day doing fun things with our family."

"Yes, this was the best day ever!" Anthony said, "Dad, thank you for bringing us to church today." Anthony gave his dad a big bear hug.

"Son," Dad said. "I am so blessed to have you and Tiana and your mom in our family."

"Let's pray together and thank God for our family," Mom said.

The family held hands and together they prayed for each other.



Lesson 1 (back)

their family.

**God gives us families too. Families love us and take good care of us. They help us when we need help.**

Help your class recall things their families do for them. **God is good to give us families who take care of us. Let's clap for the family God gave us.** Name and clap for each child's family.

Show your students how to bow their heads as you say a short prayer. **Dear God, we learned in our Bible story that You gave Samuel to Hannah. You give us our families too. Thank You for each of our families. We love them, and we love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Make sure your students have their *Make-It/Take-It* picture of baby Samuel and *My Sunday Pictures* for Lesson 1.



Family Card A

You will also send home the *My Sunday Pictures* Family Card A. Explain to parents that the Family Card gives them information on what their child will be studying in Sunday school, the action rhyme they are learning in class to help them memorize the verse, as well as ideas for activities to do with their child.

Say a personal goodbye to each child. **I am so glad you could come today. Remember to thank God for your family this week. And love one another!**

### Closing Activities

In our story, Anthony and Tiana are glad that they spent the day with their family doing fun things together.

Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures*. In today's Bible story, God gave baby Samuel to Hannah and Elkanah. God gave them



Lesson 1 (front)