

# SKY

Learning to Trust God  
Series 3—Lesson 5

## StoryTime



### Hannah Prays, God Hears

#### Primary 3-7

##### Bible Text:

1 Samuel 1; 2:1-11

##### Lesson Aim:

To teach children that as God is true to His word, we should be a person of our word. We should always tell the truth and keep our promises, too.

##### Memory Verse:

"My mouth shall speak truth"  
(Proverbs 8:7).

##### Words to Learn:

- Truth
- Lie
- Self-control

Always Close in Prayer

### The Teacher's Bible Study

**A**s Christians, we are required to lead a life of personal responsibility and character before God and man. Ours should be a life that is pleasing and obedient to our Creator. We should live a life that enables us to find and reach our greatest personal potential and fulfillment.

There are two overriding principles one should always consider in applying God's law to the everyday cares and pursuits of life:

(1) Christianity is a way of life; and (2) everything we do as Christians should be done as if under the scrutiny of Christ (Colossians 3:17,23).

The world is full of unhappiness. Much unhappiness and personal anxiety occur because of the inability to control one's temper, appetites, impulses, and desires. We have all heard the saying, "Practice makes perfect." Just as we practice to be proficient at our jobs, or anything we are interested in doing well, practice is also needed in building a habit of good behavior.

The theme "self-control" is a difficult concept for young children to understand. Words and stories that teach what is self-control will be used in this series to help you.

As an example, we use this story of Hannah to teach how important it is to keep a promise. It has been discussed in other lessons how God never breaks a promise. We must now teach our children that it is crucial for them to be true to their word. In today's culture, the statement "I didn't mean that," or "I forgot," is common. A Christian should speak the truth and fulfill his or her word to another.

When we shake hands and make an agreement with another individual, it should be as binding as if we wrote a contract; our word is our contract. To not keep your word is a very serious thing in the eyes of God. There is the old adage that says: "Say what you mean, and mean what you say." It's very important to follow through on what you say.

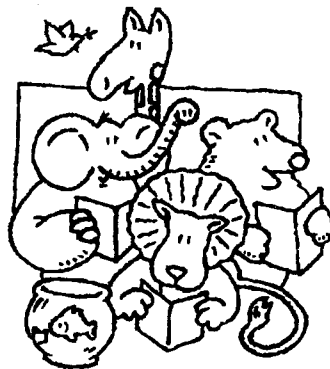
The Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt when God PROMISED to deliver them. God kept that promise, and under the leadership of Moses they left Egypt and headed for the Promised Land. Under Joshua's leadership they conquered much of the land, but not all of it. During the time of the Judges, Israel sank to an all-time low by not obeying God. It is during this dark time in the history of Israel that a baby was born who became their spiritual leader, and the last of the judges of Israel. His name was Samuel.

Elkenah and Hannah had been unable to have children. Hannah was barren. She suffered greatly under the ridicule of Elkenah's other wife. When she made their annual visit to the tabernacle in Shiloh, she made a desperate prayer to God. She promised God that if He gave her a son she would give him back to serve Him.

Her prayer was answered, and when Samuel was weaned, Hannah, being true to her promise, took Samuel to Shiloh where he helped Eli in the tabernacle. In addition, the Lord blessed Hannah with three other sons and two daughters.

Hannah's strength of character is seen in her commitment to keeping her promise to God in a beautiful song of praise. Her gratitude in this song expresses her faith in God's power, and the joy she had in her answer to prayer (see "Additional Reading"). □

# Simple as 1,2,3...



## 1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrew 10:23; Psalm 18:31,32

## 2. Are You Listening?

*After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:*

1. *True or false:* Hannah wanted a child desperately—**TRUE**
4. *True or false:* Hannah was so distressed in her praying to God that Eli, the high priest, thought she was drunken—**TRUE**
2. *True or false:* After Hannah prayed she was no longer sad—**TRUE**
3. *True or false:* Hannah's firstborn son was called Samuel—**TRUE**
5. *True or false:* Hannah did not try to get out of her promise to God, but faithfully gave her firstborn son to God's service—**TRUE**
6. *True or false:* God rewarded Hannah for keeping her word by giving her three more sons and two daughters —**TRUE**
7. *True or false:* We should always keep our word—**TRUE**
8. *True or false:* When we keep our word God is pleased—**TRUE**

## 3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- **Truth**—the actual facts or state of a matter.
- **Lie**—A false statement with deliberate intent to deceive.
- **Self-control**—to restrain and bring under control one's actions or feelings; to show patience and soundness.

# SKY Story Time

## Hannah prays, God Hears

**T**he Bible tells us a story about a man named Elkanah, who had two wives. The one he loved the best was named Hannah, and the other wife was named Peninnah.

The wife Peninnah had been able to have children, while Hannah had none. Spitefully Peninnah would say cruel, mocking things to Hannah, and would laugh at Hannah in her barrenness. It made her cry and feel very sad. One day she was so sad she could not even eat.

Elkanah was very concerned about his good wife, and said: "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than TEN sons?"

So Hannah dried her tears and ate a little because she loved her husband, and didn't want to worry him. But her heart was very sad as they traveled to Shiloh to keep the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

During their visit, Hannah went into the temple to pray one day. She talked to God with her heart, praying silently and fervently with her eyes closed and just barely moving her lips. No sounds came from her mouth. Hannah was unaware that anyone was watching her. But someone

did notice her.

That day the high priest Eli sat watching Hannah. So great was her distress he mistakenly thought she was a drunken woman! He spoke sharply to her.

But Hannah protested she was not drunk, but a woman with a very sad heart, and she was talking with God about her big problem. She did not tell Eli what made her heart so heavy. The prayer was between her and God.

Hannah had made her private, heartfelt plea to God, asking that He give her a baby boy. She promised God that if He did, she would give him back to serve in the tabernacle under the priest Eli. She gave her word on it.

Eli was moved by the young woman's obvious sincerity and her open distress. He told her to go on home, that her plea had been heard.

Hannah dried her tears, thanked Eli, and went away.

That evening Elkanah noticed that his dear Hannah ate her supper, smiled at people easily, and had even privately kissed his cheek and assured him she would be fine now.

Elkanah watched his wife happily because he loved Hannah so very much. She was a good wife and he enjoyed making her

happy. He didn't want her sad.

### I'll Do This...

It wasn't long after they went home that Hannah discovered she was going to have a baby. Her happiness was greater than the sadness she had felt.

When the baby was born she named the baby Samuel. She said, "I have asked for him from the LORD!" She gave God praise for her son, because she knew exactly WHO had sent him to her.

Hannah told Elkanah she would stay home with the baby until Samuel was weaned. Then she would take him to the temple for service. Elkanah agreed.

### You Do That...

The little boy grew strong and straight. He was very precious to his parents.

From the time he could remember, his mother would sing him songs, and tell him wonderful stories about God.

She told him that God had put him into her arms for a little while, and that when he got to be a big boy he would have to leave her and go serve God in the temple under the priest Eli.

He had been consecrated to the Lord before he was born.

It shows how much Hannah loved and trusted God. She gave her most precious possession into God's care.

The time came at last for Hannah to keep her word and let her small boy go into the service

of God. There was no resentment in Hannah. She didn't feel she had made a foolish promise. She would always be thankful to God for His blessing to her.

Each year Hannah would visit her son when she and Elkanah would come to the tabernacle to keep the holy days. She would bring Samuel a new robe that she had lovingly made, just for him. Hannah looked forward to these days each year.

God blessed Hannah and Elkanah for their honesty and truthfulness. They had three more sons and two daughters!

We can always know that God rewards those who put their faith and trust in Him.

Isn't God good? ☐

The End

## Crafty Ideas

Let the child choose a rock about the size of a small apple. Wash the rock thoroughly to remove all dirt, let it dry.

Trace the base of the rock onto a piece of felt. Cut the pattern out of the felt and glue it to the bottom of the rock. Let it dry.

Use permanent markers to write "Our God is the Rock."

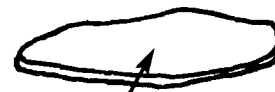
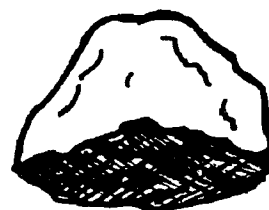
Thin white glue with a little bit of water in a saucer and brush over the entire surface of the rock. Rinse the saucer when you finish coating the rock.

Sprinkle the rock with a light dusting of glitter. Let the rock dry thoroughly.

Use as a paper weight.

# Crafty Ideas

## Build on the Rock



Felt pad



### Materials To Use:

- Rock
- white glue
- felt square
- permanent marker
- glitter (optional)