

date:



Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1—3
(Hannah's Prayer and Samuel)

God Is Almighty

REMEMBER VERSE

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:12



Tru Mission Statement

Tru helps kids and their families connect to God, find their place in His big story, and respond to Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Path: Seeing the Mission Statement in a Tru Lesson

Connecting leaders to God ...	→	<i>Inspire, Equip, and Support</i>
Connects kids and their families to God ...	→	<i>HomeFront Weekly Anticipate</i>
... His big story ...	→	<i>Celebrate</i>
... And invites them to respond to Him ...	→	<i>Respond</i>
... Through the power of the Holy Spirit.	→	<i>Bless</i>

Navigating Lesson 1.12

Below you will find additional information to enhance lesson sections as needed.

Anticipate	→	
Celebrate	→	
Respond	→	Small Group Enhancement “Remember Verse Games” activities are available for this lesson. Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users may find this resource in the Resource Files.
Bless	→	



HomeFront Magazine: A Spiritual Parenting Resource

This magazine gives families ideas for creating fun, spiritually forming times in their homes—setting aside a sacred space for family in the midst of their active, everyday lives! As the new issue becomes available each month, you may choose to print it for families or encourage them to visit www.HomeFrontMag.com to subscribe to have the magazine sent directly to their inboxes. HomeFront is also available as an app for iPhone, iPad, or Android devices.



Anticipate//

God speaks to each of us uniquely—just as He spoke to Hannah and Samuel. However, we must each learn how to listen carefully to the ways in which God speaks to us as individuals. Play these games with the children to test their listening skills.

Option 1: Listen Closely (for Younger Kids)

SUPPLIES

- drum

ENGAGE

Welcome the children as they arrive and encourage them to talk with some new friends. When you're ready to get started, invite the children to line up on one side of the room, face the wall, and close their eyes.

Explain that you're going to hit a drum, and if the kids hear the drum, they should raise their hands. If a child doesn't raise her hand after you hit the drum or raises her hand when you did not hit the drum, you will gently tap her on the shoulder to indicate that she should take a seat. Let the kids know they will have to listen very closely for the sound of the drum!

Start to hit the drum, and mix up the way you hit it; make it very loud at times and barely noticeable at other times to see how well the children listen. Play until one child remains.

Option 2: Find Me (for Older Kids)

SUPPLIES

- jingle bells (1 per child)

ENGAGE

Welcome the children as they arrive, and encourage them to talk with some new friends. When you're ready to get started, explain that you'll be playing a special version of Hide-and-Seek today.

Choose one child to be the seeker. Have that child stand in the corner with his eyes closed. Then, give each child a jingle bell, and encourage the kids to hide around the room. Explain that unlike traditional Hide-and-Seek, the point of this game is to be found. Each child will jingle her bell until the seeker finds her. The seeker will have to listen very carefully for the sound of each person's bell!

Once the seeker finds everyone, play another round with a new seeker.



Celebrate//

20–35 min.

Ponder Point: God Is Almighty

<p>Welcome & Traditions//</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take five minutes to open your CELEBRATE time by engaging in Welcome and Traditions. • Group Tradition (optional): Hang a piece of canvas and write “God in Our World” at the top. Each week, encourage kids to write or draw how they’ve seen God in their world in the last week.
<p>Remember Verse//</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This week’s Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that’s highlighted in today’s portion of The Big God Story. <p>With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever. Psalm 136:12</p>
<p>Connect//</p>	<p>Invite the children to ask one another the following question or one of your own. Encourage them to ask someone they may not know. After a minute or two, ask several children to tell the group their friends’ answers. (For Connect Question slide and Connect Activity slide, see Resource Files.)</p> <p>Question Have you ever wanted something so badly that you were willing to wait a long time for it?</p> <p>Activity: Strike a Pose Invite each child to move around the room and pair up with someone he doesn’t know very well. Then have the two kids strike a pose and hold it as they ask each other the Connect Question. Then they can move around the room again, pair up with new people, and repeat the process.</p>
<p>The Big God Story//</p>	<p>SUPPLIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles (1 per leader and 1 per child) • Timeline slide and animation (see Resource Files) • whiteboard and dry erase marker or poster board (at least 2 sheets) and marker • slides: 1 Samuel 1:11, 1 Samuel 3:9 (see Resource Files) • paper (1 sheet per child, 8½" x 14" or 11" x 17") • colored pencils or markers • optional: easel <p>SET UP Place the whiteboard or poster board (one sheet) at the front of the room where the kids can see it. If necessary, set these items on an easel. On the board, draw one horizontal line, and through that line, draw two vertical lines to create six equal-sized boxes. Place the marker nearby. If using a whiteboard, keep the eraser nearby; if using poster board, keep the other sheet nearby.</p>
<p>Worship Response//</p>	<p>SUPPLIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crepe paper streamers (2 sections per child, each section approx. 2'; various colors) • energetic worship music (suggestion: “Celebrate,” TruWorship <i>Sincerely Yours</i>)



The Big God Story

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1–3

Storytelling Technique: Drawing Images and Writing Key Words

ENGAGE

Can you think of someone you would describe as mighty? Invite responses. **A mighty person is very strong and powerful. In the Bible, God is described as mighty—and almighty! What do you think that means?** Invite responses. **Yes, God is mighty over everything! Let's take a minute to ask our mighty God to speak to us today.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release.

God used His strength and power to help His people, the Israelites, in many ways. He was mighty to keep His promise (write "Promise" in the first box on the board) **and bring His people into the Promised Land** (write "Promised Land" in the next box), **where they would find rest and be free to worship Him** (write "Worship" in the next box).

Unfortunately, once God's people settled in the land, they started to do what they wanted instead of following God's laws. Draw a big "X" in the next box. **Even some of the priests turned away from following God's ways! This caused a lot of problems.** Draw a sad face in the next box. **But because God is almighty, He had a plan to raise up a new priest who would love and honor God and show the people the best way to live.** Write "God Is Almighty" in the last box. Then erase the whiteboard or replace the poster board with a new sheet.

Give each child a sheet of paper and a few colored pencils or markers. Ask the kids to draw a horizontal line and two vertical lines to create six boxes, like you did on the board. **As we look at The Big God Story today, I'll sometimes ask you to draw a picture of what you just heard. Later, you can look at what you drew and be reminded that God is almighty.** Ask a child volunteer to come up front and draw on the board what the rest of the kids draw.

In today's part of The Big God Story, we meet a woman named Hannah. Invite kids to turn to 1 Samuel 1 in their Bibles. **Hannah couldn't have children, and the Bible tells us that this brought her "deep anguish"** (1 Samuel 1:10). **What do you think that means?** Invite responses. **Good thoughts. Hannah's heart was full of pain about not being able to have a child.**

One day, Hannah went to the temple to pray to God. Invite kids to look at verse 11. **Weeping, Hannah prayed** (*Tech: Cue 1 Samuel 1:11 slide*), **"LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life"** (1 Samuel 1:11). Invite the kids (and the child up front) to draw, in the first box, a picture of Hannah praying.

Let's look at this verse a little bit longer. What did Hannah call God in her prayer? Invite responses. **That's right: "LORD Almighty!" "LORD Almighty" means "God of Hosts." What do you think "God of Hosts" means?** Invite responses. **Good thinking. It means that God goes before us into battle and fights for us.** Invite kids to write "God fights for us" in the second box. **Why do you think Hannah was asking God to fight for her?** Invite responses. **What promise did she make to God?** Invite responses. **That's right. She promised that she would give her son to the Lord so he could serve Him. What do you think that meant?** Invite responses. **This meant that Hannah's son would live in the temple with the priests. The priests would teach Samuel how to serve and worship God.**

After Hannah prayed at the temple, she went home. Soon, God did something amazing. What do you think He did? Invite responses. **Yes—with His almighty power, God gave Hannah a child!** Read 1 Samuel 1:20 aloud, or ask a volunteer to read it, while everyone follows along. Invite kids to draw a picture of baby Samuel in the third box.

Once Samuel was old enough, Hannah brought him to the temple, just as she had promised. She praised God for answering her prayer. Why did God answer her prayer? Invite responses. **Because God is almighty.**



Time passed, and Samuel grew. And as he grew, Eli the high priest taught him about the almighty God. Invite kids to draw a picture of Eli talking to Samuel. One night, while Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call his name. He got up and went to Eli. Read 1 Samuel 3:4–5 aloud as the kids follow along, or ask a couple of volunteers to read the verses. **It wasn't Eli!** Read 1 Samuel 3:6. **That was the second time God had called Samuel.**

For a third time, the Lord called Samuel, and again, Samuel got up and went to Eli. Why do you think he kept going to see Eli? Invite responses. Samuel was still a boy and had never heard God's voice. But this time Eli realized that the almighty God had been calling Samuel's name! So Eli told Samuel what to do. *Tech: Cue 1 Samuel 3:9 slide.* Read 1 Samuel 3:9 or ask a volunteer to read it. Invite kids to draw a picture of Samuel lying down, waiting for God's call. **When God spoke to Samuel again, Samuel did just what Eli said. Then, God began sharing His plans for the future. This was the beginning of Samuel becoming a faithful prophet of the Lord Almighty.** Read 1 Samuel 3:19–20 aloud.

Wow—God was mighty to accomplish a lot through Hannah's prayer! He was mighty to give her a child when she hadn't been able to have one for many years, and He was mighty to raise up Hannah's son as a servant for Him. God is almighty in our lives too! Tell a story of a time when God showed Himself as mighty in your life.

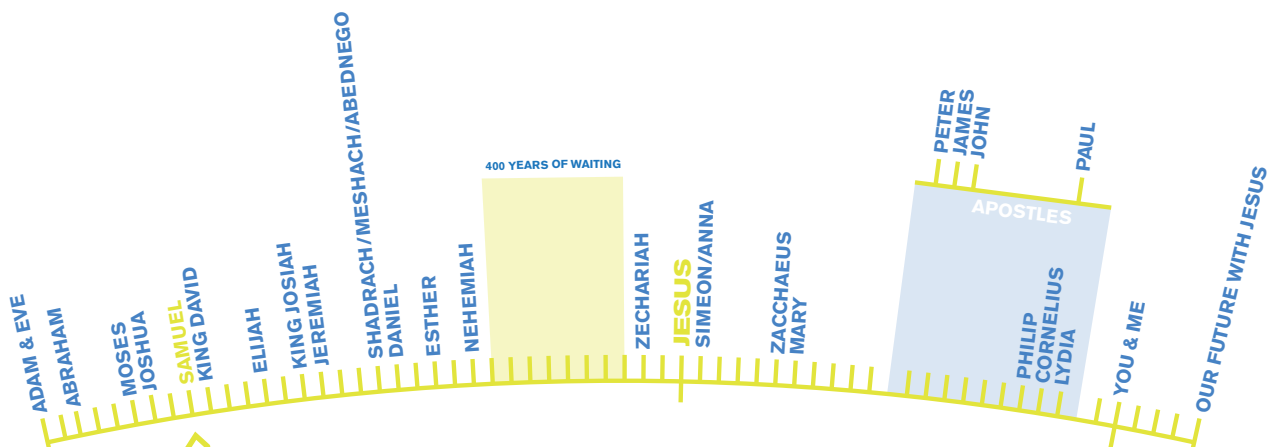
Worship Response

ENGAGE

God is almighty! He shows His strength and power to us again and again. Is there an area of your life where you need God to be strong and powerful—to be almighty? Maybe you need God to show Himself almighty at school, where you're dealing with a mean classmate. Maybe you need God to show Himself almighty at home, where your parents fight. No matter what you're going through, God is almighty, and He can show His power in your life.

Encourage kids to think and pray silently for a few moments. Then pray over the entire group and ask God to show His might and power in amazing ways in the kids' lives this week. Pass out the sections of crepe paper streamers—two sections per child—and have everyone stand.

Let's spend some time declaring God as almighty and celebrating that with our streamers. For example, you might say, "God is almighty when I'm feeling alone" or "God is mighty when I'm playing soccer." Stand up, share your thoughts, and then wave your streamers in the air! After the kids have had the opportunity to participate, invite all of the kids to wave their streamers in the air and cheer as they celebrate God Almighty. *Tech: Cue music.* Then play music and invite kids to sing and dance as they worship the all-powerful God.





Respond//

15–20 min.

Reflect: God Is Almighty

When Hannah prayed to God for a son, she couldn't have known how God would answer her prayer so mightily. God not only gave her a son but also used her son to usher in a new era for His people—an era in which they were led by a king who loved and followed God. Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

Questions for Younger Kids

- **What did Hannah pray for in the temple?** 1 Samuel 1:11
- **How did God answer Hannah's prayer?** 1 Samuel 1:20
- **Have you ever prayed for something and saw God mightily answer your prayer?**
- **Who did Samuel think had called to him the first time?**
1 Samuel 3:4–5
- **Who was really calling to Samuel?** 1 Samuel 3:8b–9
- **How has God shown Himself as almighty in your life?**

Questions for Older Kids

- **What did Hannah pray for in the temple?** 1 Samuel 1:11
- **Why did Hannah refer to God as "LORD Almighty"?**
1 Samuel 1:11
- **How did God answer Hannah's prayer?** 1 Samuel 1:20
- **How does Hannah's prayer inspire you to pray?**
- **How did God mightily use Samuel in the lives of His people?**
- **How has God shown Himself as almighty in your life?**

Create: Listening to God

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- play dough or modeling clay (1 lump per child)

ENGAGE

Pass out the modeling clay so that each child has a handful. Read Psalm 66:1–4; Psalm 84:1–4; and/or Psalm 99:1–3; these verses speak about how God is almighty. Ask the children to listen carefully and to use the clay to make something to represent what they hear in the Scripture (such as "bowing," "dwelling," or "sparrow"). Ask them to listen for God's voice and to tell you what stood out to them in the Scripture, what they made with their clay, and what God might have been saying to them through His Word.



Bless// 5 min.

Open a Bible and read Psalm 118:15–17:

Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things! The LORD’s right hand is lifted high ... proclaim what the LORD has done.”

Now let the kids know you’re going to read the verses again, and when they hear you say, “joy” and “victory,” they can cheer and shout. They can also shout praises to God, such as “God is good!”

Finally, end with this blessing:

May you be blessed by God Almighty. May you praise Him for the things He has done and will do. May you seek His face in all you do and say.

home|front WEEKLY

Be sure to send home the HomeFront Weekly for next week’s lesson! This preteaching tool for parents encourages families to spend time in God’s Word together before children arrive at church.

