

Gospel Light Elementary Sunday School

I know God
will answer
my prayers!

Give me Jesus!



Includes CD-ROM
with Lesson Extras

Teacher Guide

Fall C • Grades 1 & 2

Welcome to a Royal Adventure!

This quarter, you and your kids will discover God as King! From the the wild and wonderful stories of Samuel, Saul, David and Solomon, you'll see God's love and faithfulness to His people, even when they neglected to honor Him as their King. And you'll discover that God's love and faithfulness is for you and your kids as well!

If this is your first time to teach this material or if you'd like a quick refresher, go to our website at gospellightsundayschool.com. But if you're ready to go with Samuel into new territory, then follow these easy

1-2-3 STEPS

Prepare and Pray



1. Check out the lesson introduction. The Big Idea tells why the lesson will make a difference in kids' lives—and in your life, too! The Action Plan helps you focus on what kids can do in this lesson to apply the Big Idea to life! Connecting You to Jesus shows how the action in this lesson's Bible story points to Jesus.
2. Read the lesson and customize it for your kids by marking the activities you plan to do. Pray for God to help you reach your kids and show His love to them.
3. Gather the materials you need—they're listed right there for you!

Teach



1. **Get Thinking:** Welcome your kids and use this activity to help them think about today's Big Idea!
2. **Get God's Word:** This is the heart and soul of your time together! Use the Story Starter to draw kids in and the fun Storytelling Idea to get kids participating as you tell the story.
3. **Get Talking:** Help kids talk about ways they can apply the Bible to their lives. Whiteboard Time, *Kid Talk Cards*, cool art activities and energetic games will keep your kids interacting with each other, with you and with God! (And get families talking, too, by handing out *Family Fridge Fun* papers for kids to take home.) End with a prayer time together!

CONNECT TO FAMILIES

Check out the Fall Family Event on the CD-ROM! This is a must-have event that really helps you to pump up parent participation in your program and help them grow faith at home. Get your parents involved!

Ready to join the royal family adventure?

LET'S GO



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Gospel Light Sunday School Curriculum

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CD-ROM



On the CD-ROM, you will find instructions for the Fall Family Event, teacher-training articles, Song Motion Charts and Lesson Extras such as game cards, patterns and more! Refer to “What to Print” on the CD-ROM.

Basic Supplies to Keep on Hand



Markers, pencils, paper (copy paper, construction paper, butcher paper, card stock, etc.), scissors, glue sticks, tape (clear and masking).

Materials Needed for Each Lesson



Bibles, whiteboard and markers, *Bible Teaching Poster Pack*, *Kid Talk Cards Grades 1 & 2*, *Family Fridge Fun papers*, *Get Going! Worship CD or DVD* and player, several copies of *What the Bible Is All About Bible Handbook for Kids*.

Connecting Kids to Jesus

God’s big picture of redemption throughout the Bible is the prime feature of this course! A focus on Jesus is in every lesson. Connecting You to Jesus, in the introduction of every lesson, will familiarize you with how the characters and the action of the lesson’s Bible story point to Jesus and God’s plan for salvation. These same concepts, written in kid-friendly words, are also part of each lesson’s Wrap-Up: Connecting Kids to Jesus will give you the words to say to help your students see God’s big plan for the ages—and how they can each be a part of that amazing plan!

But the best part of connecting kids to Jesus is helping them join His family! It’s a huge joy—and it’s easy! Here’s a quick breakdown:

Pray. Start by praying for each kid you teach—keep a list on your phone or computer, in your prayer journal or in your Bible. Invite God to prepare each child to understand and receive His good news.

Talk one-on-one. Because kids are easily influenced to follow the group, be wise



in the way you invite kids to join God's family when you're in a group setting. Make it easy for kids who express interest to talk and pray with a prepared adult—but without pressure.

Be clear. Kids need to understand the gospel! So we need to use words and phrases kids understand. And don't assume that they do understand just because they can repeat something back to you. Avoid symbolic terms ("born again," "ask Jesus to come into your heart," "open your heart," etc.). Those can confuse these literal-minded thinkers. (For some great words, check out the evangelism booklet *God Loves You!* It's available from Gospel Light.) Mark the Scriptures below. Read them aloud with an interested kid so that it's clear that joining God's family through repentance and faith in Jesus is God's big, beautiful idea!

Take Scripture Steps into God's Family

1. **God wants you to become His child. Why do you think God wants you in His family?** (See 1 John 3:1.)
2. **You and I and every person in the world have done wrong things. The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (See Romans 6:23.)
3. **God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sin. On the third day after Jesus died, what happened?** (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 John 4:14.)
4. **Are you sorry for your sin? Tell God that you are. Do you believe Jesus died for your sin and then rose again? Tell Him that, too. If you tell God you are sorry for your sin and believe that Jesus died to take your sin away, what does the Bible say God will do?** (See 1 John 1:9.)
5. **The Bible says that when you believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He is alive today, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever!** (See John 1:12; 3:16.)

Another approach is to give each child in your class a copy of *God Loves You!* and read through the booklet together as a group. Ask, "What did you think about the booklet? What do you think is the most important part of the booklet? After reading the booklet, how would you describe Jesus?"

Celebrate! YES! You have permission to be excited when a kid joins God's family! Encourage those kids to tell their family. Give their names to your pastor. And don't leave any babies to fend for themselves! Make yourself available to help them grow, or find another adult who will help them. Use the discipling booklet *Following Jesus* (available from Gospel Light) as a simple, effective way to help kids think about ways to grow in God's family.

TIP

As we talk with kids about salvation, it's important to help them understand the truth about what they feel or don't feel. Many of us were taught that feelings are "more real" than facts. But the Bible says it works in just the opposite way. When we don't "feel" anything, it helps us when we remember how we're like a little train: First come the FACTS of Scripture; they are like the engine of a train. FAITH connects the FACTS and pulls along our FEELINGS in line with the FACTS. Helping kids remember God's Word hold the FACTS of life helps them know that their feelings can be brought into line—by faith!



A Mother's Prayer

Dear Teacher,

When hard things happen in my life, I'm quick to see a solution—and start praying for my great idea to take place! But I've noticed that God tends to shake His head at my little plans and then do what He knows is right!

Trusting God's help is not praying for and expecting God to do what WE want Him to do. Trusting God is praying for and expecting God to do what HE promises—to help us, be with us, love us and to work all things together for good. And while we wait for God's answers, we demonstrate our trust by following His commands. Maybe things won't work out the way we planned, but we know that God is faithful and has the power to do what is best. And that gives us comfort!

So no matter what the situation, we can say, "You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me."



Debbie Barber


Associate Managing Editor



Big Idea
I can pray and trust God to help me.



Action Plan
Talk about times to ask for God's help and then trust Him.



Bible Verse
"You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me."
Psalm 86:17

Connecting You to Jesus



In Hannah's simple and trusting prayer, she asked God for a son whom she could dedicate to God's service. And in Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving when she presented her son to serve at the Tabernacle, she prophetically made the first mention in the Bible of the King, the Anointed One God promised to send. Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of Hannah's prayer, taught us to pray, trusting God as our Heavenly Father.

LESSON MATERIALS

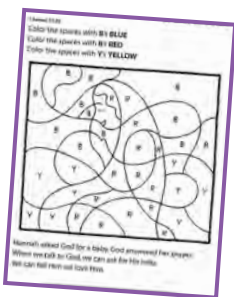


- The basics (see contents)
- Teddy bear
- Story props (see p. 9)
- Materials for Art or Game activity (see pp. 14-15)

Lesson Extras!



1. Students learn the order of the books in the Bible by playing Line Up the Books (on CD-ROM). Use the first seven books of the Old Testament for this lesson.



2. Students talk about today's Bible Story as they complete Lesson 1 Bible Story Puzzle (on CD-ROM).



Get Thinking



(10-15 minutes)

Welcome students and help them begin to think about today's Big Idea.

Helpful People

On construction paper, students draw pictures of people who have helped them (soccer coach, art teacher, friend, etc.). Students use tape to display pictures on a wall or door.



Big Idea

I can pray and trust God to help me.

Connect:

- What did these people do to help you?
- How do you feel after someone helps you?
- Today we'll find out about someone who is always ready to help us.

YOU NEED

Construction paper,
markers, tape.



Get God's Word



(15-25 minutes)

A Mother's Prayer

Tell the following story summary in your own words, asking discussion questions as indicated.

Story Starter

Invite three or more volunteers to stand in front of the group and take turns laughing in different ways. Challenge volunteers to try and make other students join in and laugh as well. **Most of the time, laughing is really fun! But in our story today, we'll find out about someone who laughed AT someone else and made her very sad. Our story is from 1 Samuel. It's the ninth book in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible.** Help students find 1 Samuel in their Bibles. **Let's find out what happened.**

YOU NEED

Bible for yourself and each student, Lesson 1 Poster, paper plates, markers, teddy bear.

STORYTELLING IDEA



Give each student two paper plates and a marker. Students draw faces on both sides of paper plates, making sad, happy, surprised and mean faces. During the story, guide students to show faces at the appropriate times as directed.

The Other Wife

Hannah lived in the country of Israel a long, long time ago—long before Jesus was born. She was married to a man named Elkanah. Hannah and Elkanah had no children. In those days some people thought that a woman who did not have children was being punished by God. Not having a child made Hannah very sad. **Students hold up sad faces.** She loved God and she wanted a child very much!

Elkanah had ANOTHER wife. (Some men had two wives in those days.) But Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, made

TIP

Read aloud the information about 1 Samuel under "Title" on page 71 in *What the Bible Is All About for Kids*.

Hannah feel even SADDER. **Students hold up sad faces.** You see, Peninnah had MANY children. And instead of trying to make Hannah feel better, Peninnah made fun of Hannah! **How do you think Hannah felt when Peninnah made fun of her?**

Sad in Shiloh

Peninnah especially liked to make fun of Hannah when their family traveled to the Tabernacle at the town of Shiloh. The Tabernacle was the place where people came for special times to worship God and celebrate.

“Look at you, Hannah!” she might have said. “God has not given you even ONE little child. I have MANY children! God must love me more than you!”

Day after day, Peninnah was so mean that finally Hannah cried and cried. **Students hold up mean faces.** She felt so terrible she couldn’t even eat. At the time of the year when Hannah should have been celebrating, she felt sadder than EVER! **Students hold up sad faces.**

The Weeping Woman

One day while they were in Shiloh, Hannah felt so sad that she quietly left the table where everyone was eating. **Students hold up sad faces.** Hannah walked to the Tabernacle. Old Eli the priest was sitting there by the doorpost, but she didn’t pay any attention to him. She wasn’t coming to talk to him. Hannah prayed! She wept and prayed, pouring out all her anger and disappointment and hurt. She let it all out and she didn’t care who was listening. This was between her and God!

As she stood there, praying and crying, she made a promise to God. **Listen as I read 1 Samuel 1:11 to find out what Hannah told the Lord.**

The Blessing of Hope

Eli was still sitting, watching this weeping woman. Her lips were moving, but no sound was coming out. He thought Hannah was drunk! So when Hannah turned to go, Eli said, “You’ve got to stop getting drunk like this. Put away your wine!”

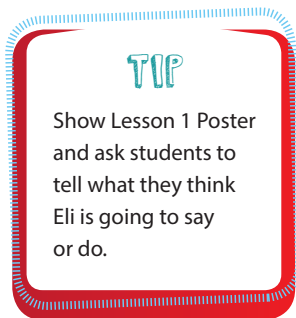




What do you think Hannah said? Hannah was VERY surprised! **Students hold up surprised faces.** She saw that Eli didn't understand what she was doing. She said, "No, sir. I haven't been drinking wine! I'm praying, telling God how sad I am!"

Eli said, "Well then, go in peace. May God give you what you have asked for!" Eli's kind words comforted Hannah.

Hannah walked away. Her sad face was gone. She was happier than she had been for days! **Students hold up happy faces.** She felt so glad, she even wanted to eat! Now she had hope. She had told God her problem. She didn't know if she would ever have a baby, but talking to God about how sad she felt made her feel so much better. She knew God loved her, and He had comforted her!



Happy at Home

The next morning, the whole family packed up and went home. Not long after that, Hannah found the SHE was going to have a BABY! God answered Hannah's prayer! Now it didn't matter what ANYONE said. She worked happily to get ready for her baby's birth.

Students hold up happy faces. And when her son was born, she named him Samuel, which sounds like "Heard!" She had asked God for this baby, and God had heard and answered her prayer!



Wrap-Up

Most of us have something that is comforting to us, like a pillow or a teddy bear. Show teddy bear. When trouble comes or when we feel sad, we might hold that comforting thing or give it a hug. Hug teddy bear. But there is something even better to do when we feel sad or have big problems—we can pray to God like Hannah did!

Hannah found out that God listens to her and loves her. Read Psalm 86:17 aloud. Hannah could have said these words! We can say these words, too. God will comfort and help us! Because God loves us, He will hear our prayers and give us what's really best for us. We can trust God because of who He is—the one true God!

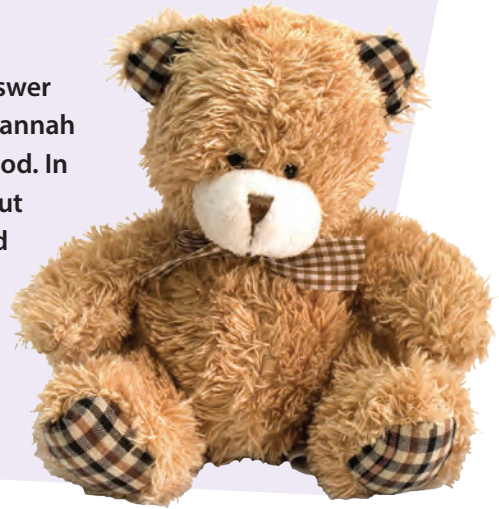
Action Plan

Talk about times to ask for God's help and then trust Him.

Connecting Kids to Jesus



Hannah prayed and trusted God to answer her. And after she saw God's answer, Hannah prayed again, thanking and praising God. In this special prayer, Hannah talked about the King God would one day send. God answered this prayer when He sent Jesus as our King! God's Son, Jesus, wants us to pray and trust God like Hannah did.



Get Talking



(25-30 minutes)

Distribute Lesson 1 *Kid Talk Cards*. Students answer the questions on Side 1 and fill in the blanks.

- **What was Hannah's problem? What did she do about her problem?** (She prayed about it.)
- **What did God do to comfort and help Hannah?** (God sent Eli to listen to her problem. God also heard and answered Hannah's prayer.)
- **Point to photo of teddy bear. A teddy bear can remind us of feeling comforted. When we ask God for help, He really will help us in the very best way. And knowing that is very comforting, and it helps us to trust in Him!**



Whiteboard Time



On whiteboard, draw one line for each letter of the word "pray." Students guess letter to fill in the blanks. Print wrong letters at the bottom of the board and give hints as needed. **When are some times that you can pray to God?** Repeat with the word "trust." **We can pray and trust God to help us all the time!**

Students look at Side 2 of *Kid Talk Cards*. Read Bible verse aloud. **Who does Psalm 86:17 say will comfort us? Even though we can't see God, the Bible tells us that He is always with us and cares for us. He often gives us people who help and comfort us when we are sad or have problems.** Students draw times they need God's help.

- **What are some ways that God has helped and comforted you?** Tell your own answer before asking students to respond.
- **What are some good reasons we have for trusting God to answer our prayers and care for us?** (God promised to answer our prayers. The Bible tells us about God's love and care. God has helped us and other people we know in the past.)
- **When might kids your age need comfort?** (When they are sick or get hurt. When others make fun of them.)
- **What are some ways God comforts us?** (Listens to our prayers. Gives us people to care for us. Reminds us in the Bible of His love for us.)

Prayer



Invite volunteers to tell prayer requests as you write them on the whiteboard. Tell about a request you prayed about that God didn't answer right away. On long strips of paper, students write reminders of their long-term requests. Then pray with students about the needs and concerns they mention.

Art

Ahead of time, cut apart strips from the I Need God's Help Book page.

Give each student a large sheet of construction paper and a strip from the I Need God's Help Book page. Students dictate or write how they want to complete the sentence on the strip. Then students glue strip to construction paper and draw pictures to illustrate sentences. Students sign their names at the bottom of their pages. When students are finished, staple the pages together to make a book. Invite students to help you read aloud their pages of the book.

Connect: God wants us to pray to Him about anything. God knows that we can feel worried or sad, and He is ready to listen to our problems and help us in many ways. We can trust Him!

YOU NEED

One I Need God's Help Book page (from CD-ROM) for every three students, scissors, markers, large sheets of construction paper, glue sticks, stapler.

TIPS

1. A student who finishes early can decorate a cover page.
2. Keep book in your classroom for children and parents to review.



Game

Ahead of time, print words of the Bible verse on separate slips of paper. Put each slip of paper inside a different balloon and then blow up and tie balloons.

Students sit on the floor in a circle and bat a prepared balloon around the circle, attempting to keep it in the air until it has been tapped five times. After 5 taps, or when balloon touches the floor, volunteer pops the balloon to find the slip of paper inside. Repeat with other balloons until all the words of the verse have been found. Students work together to put the words in verse order. Read verse aloud with students

Connect: There are lots of times that people need God's help and comfort. I'm glad to know that God promises to help us and that we can ask God for help anytime! We can trust God to hear our prayers and help us anytime!

Get Going



Direct students to look at Side 2 of their *Kid Talk Cards* again. Listen to a song that reminds me to trust God when I pray! I can trust Him because He loves me! Play "Deep as the Ocean" (on *Worship DVD* or track 1 on *Worship CD*), inviting students to listen or sing along. This week, I'll be praying for you to remember to talk to God about any problem, and to trust Him to love and care for you every day! Distribute Lesson 1 *Family Fridge Fun* papers as students leave.

YOU NEED

Bibles, slips of paper,
marker, balloons.

