

# Gospel Light Elementary Sunday School



Give me Jesus!



Includes CD-ROM  
with Lesson Extras

Teacher Guide  
Fall C - Grades 3 & 4

# 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](http://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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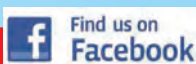
## Gospel Light Sunday School Curriculum

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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 3 & 4*, *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
- Get Thinking—balloons
- Materials for Art or Game activity (see pp. 14-15)

## Lesson Extras!



1. Help your kids learn the order of books in the Bible by playing Line Up the Books (on CD-ROM). Use the first 10 books of the Old Testament for this lesson.



2. Students discover more about the divisions of the Old Testament by completing "Swimming Divisions" puzzle (on CD-ROM).





# Get Thinking



(10-15 minutes)

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

## Pop Goes the Problem!

Give each student a balloon. Students blow up and tie balloons. Then students use permanent markers to write short descriptions of problems kids might have. Students tap balloons to another person and read aloud what is written on the balloon they receive. Students pop balloons. (Optional: Students cut neck of balloon with scissors to avoid making a popping sound.)

### Connect:

➤ What are some unhelpful things that people might do when they have a problem?



## Big Idea

I can pray and trust God to help me.

## YOU NEED

Balloons, permanent markers.

- What are some things that might be helpful to do when someone has a problem? (Ask for help. Talk about it with someone you trust.)
- Today we are talking about really great things to do when we have problems, no matter what the problem is!



# Get God's Word



(15-25 minutes)

## A Mother's Prayer

Help students find 1 Samuel 1 in their Bibles. Tell the following story summary in your own words, guiding students to find answers in their Bibles.

### 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.**

### YOU NEED

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

### STORYTELLING IDEA



Assign volunteers to pantomime actions of people in the story (Elkanah, Peninnah, Hannah, Eli). Volunteers act as directed throughout story.

## The Other Wife

Many years ago, in the days of the judges, lived a family made up of one man, two wives and some children. Elkanah was the man. **Elkanah waves.** Peninnah was one wife—and she was the mother of all of the children. **Peninnah smiles.** The other wife, Hannah, had no children at all. **Hannah frowns.**

In those days, having children was VERY important. It was (and still is!) a blessing from God to have a child. But the Bible tells us during this time, God had kept Hannah from having children. He wasn't being mean; He was doing something bigger than Hannah ever could have imagined. And the perfect time had not yet arrived!

### TIP

Invite a volunteer to read aloud information about 1 Samuel under "Title" on page 71 in *What the Bible Is All About for Kids*.

So year after year, Hannah waited. And year after year, the whole family would go to Shiloh to worship God at the Tabernacle. **Elkanah, Peninnah and Hannah walk across the room.** This was kind of like Thanksgiving vacation. Everyone came to offer sacrifices to the Lord, feast and visit. It was a time of big celebration! And when Elkanah would serve up the meat for the feast, he always gave twice as much to Hannah as he did to Peninnah, because he loved her and he felt sad that she had no children. **Elkanah pretends to give big plate of food to Hannah.**

But even while they were celebrating, other things happened! **Read 1 Samuel 1:6-7 to find out what else happened.** **Peninnah points at Hannah and laughs.** The Bible describes Peninnah as Hannah's rival—a person who is always competing, always rubbing it in when they win. Peninnah must have said some pretty hurtful things—in fact, her words were SO mean that Hannah would weep and weep. She was so sad that she could not eat, not even this very best of food at the festival. **Hannah pretends to cry.**

Elkanah would say to Hannah, "Please! Stop crying and eat! Why are you so sad? Don't I mean more to you than having ten sons?" **Elkanah shrugs shoulders.** But Hannah wanted her own sweet baby and much as she loved Elkanah, her heart was broken!

## The Weeping Woman

At one of these festivals, Hannah went into the place of prayer in the Tabernacle. **Hannah walks away from the others.** Old Eli the priest was sitting there by the door post, but she didn't pay any attention to him. **Eli sits nearby.** She wasn't coming to talk to him. She was going to do something else! **Read 1 Samuel 1:10 to find out what she did!** **Hannah kneels down and pretends to pray.** Hannah prayed! She wept and prayed, pouring out all her anger and disappoint-





ment and hurt. She let it all out and she didn't care who was listening. This was between her and God!

Then Hannah prayed something pretty unusual for a woman who wanted to have her own baby! **Read 1 Samuel 1:11 to find out what Hannah told the Lord.**

Hannah was ready to do whatever God wanted her to do—even if it meant she didn't get to keep her baby. She promised to give the baby back to the Lord. God could do whatever He wanted with that boy for the rest of his life! And by never cutting his hair, her son would show everyone that he was dedicated to God. (Letting your hair grow showed you had been given to God as a servant.)

### TIP

Show Lesson 1 Poster and ask students to tell what they think Eli is going to say or do.

## 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!" **Eli shakes finger at Hannah.**

Hannah looked at him. "No, sir. I'm not drunk. I'm deeply troubled. I was pouring out my soul to God! I'm full of anguish and grief, not wine!" **Hannah shakes head.**

Eli said, "Go in peace. May God grant you what you have asked of Him." **Eli smiles at Hannah.** Hannah's whole face lightened. God COULD answer her prayer! She went home happy and enjoyed the rest of festival! **Hannah smiles and runs back to Elkanah and Peninnah.**

After she got home, she discovered she was going to have a baby! And in what must have seemed like a short time, Hannah was holding a little baby boy! **Hannah pretends to hold baby.** She named him Samuel, which means "Heard!" She had asked God for this baby, and God had heard and answered her prayer! But she could not imagine the BIG things God was going to do through this little baby boy!

## 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!

## Action Plan

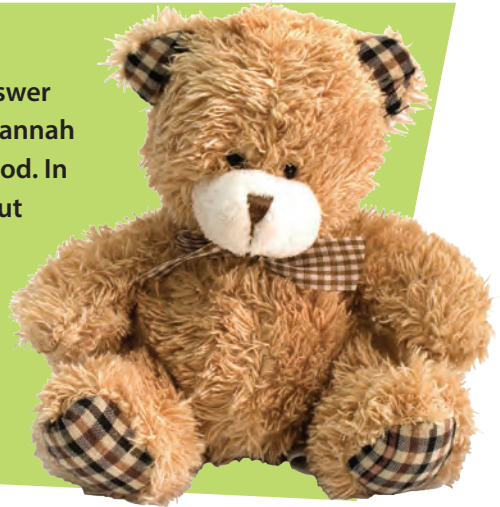
Talk about times to ask for God's help and then trust Him.

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!

## 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 multiple choice questions on Side 1.

- **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 a clock face with hands showing 9:00. **What do you usually do at 9:00 in the morning? What is something that you might talk to God about at that time?** Students tell ideas. Repeat with other times of the day. **We can pray and trust God to help us all the time!**

Students look at Side 2 of *Kid Talk Cards* and read Bible verse together. **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 decode the words to discover ways to show trust in God.

- **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

Give each student a Praybook page. Students cut along solid lines. Then students attach 10 to 12 Post-it Notes on the shaded area, with the sticky side closest to the bottom fold line, and fold bottom edge up. Students staple bottom edge in place, securing the Post-it Notes in place. On top section, students write a reminder to pray and trust God and then fold on middle dotted line and slide upper section under stapled flap to close book. Students decorate the book, inside and out. On Post-it Notes, students write prayer requests.

### YOU NEED

One Praybook page (from CD-ROM) printed on card stock for each student, scissors, 3-inch (7.5-cm) Post-it Notes, stapler, markers.

### TIP

If you do not have Post-it Notes, cut paper into 3-inch (7.5-cm) squares for students to use instead.

**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!



## Game

Divide group into two teams. Each team lines up. Place a bowl of Ping Pong balls at the front of each line and give each student two straws. Place an empty bowl at the end of each line. Place a large sheet of paper and two markers near empty bowls.

First student in each line uses straws to pick up a Ping Pong ball and passes ball to next student in line. Ball is passed most effectively if it rests on top of straws as shown in photo. Procedure continues until ball reaches the end of the line. The last player drops it in the empty bowl and then writes on large sheet of paper a time a kid might ask God for help. Player then goes to the front of the line. Repeat until each student on at least one team has had a turn.

**Connect:** We can ask God for help anytime! It is good to know that God promises to always listen to our prayers and to love and care for us. We can trust Him!

## YOU NEED

Ping Pong balls, four bowls, two straws for each student, large sheet of paper, markers.



## 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.