



◦ **Big Idea** *Children are God's most precious gifts to parents.*

**Bible Passage** *Hannah's Gift—1 Samuel 1:1—2:11*

**Discover God** *He Is Kind*

### Lesson Summary

Children are priceless gifts to their families! Having established that God created families and wants parents to nurture their children, this lesson elaborates on the role children play. They'll see God's kindness when He gives Hannah her heart's desire. Your students will realize that they are valuable not only to their families, but also as members of God's wider family, the Church—just like Samuel was important to both his family and God's eternal plan!

### Bible Background

Children were essential to successful Bible-times families. They helped farm, herd, weave, cook and do other tasks to keep the family going. Boys carried on the family name and inheritance of land. Motherhood was very important to Bible-times women, and people equated not being "fruitful" with not being blessed by God. A man's social standing also depended on having male offspring. Hannah's infertility was both a personal disappointment and a shameful situation. But Hannah trusted God for what she most desired, and God responded to her pleas. Hannah received a gift when Samuel was born and gave a gift to God as she fulfilled her promise to let Samuel serve God.

### Teacher Devotional

When was the last time you felt like a priceless gift to someone else? It's an incomparable feeling to realize that you are God's treasure given to others. Often we forget we've been given the tremendous gift of undeserved forgiveness, and that as Christ's followers, our lives become gifts we present back to God. Reflect on the truth that you are a cherished gift, and move your children toward that same truth—that they're also delightful gifts to their families, and to God.

*I praise you, Heavenly Father, for your love for me and for the children I teach. What a gift Your love is! Please give me insight into Your kindness so I can explain and show it to these children. Help me know those who need extra attention because they feel unloved or inadequate. I ask for Your Spirit to help them understand how valued they are and that You created them for a purpose. Speak through me and use me as You choose. In Jesus' name, amen.*



## DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

### KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • God displays kindness and love for children. (Jeremiah 31:3)
- N** • Children are God's gift to their families. (Psalm 127:3-5)
- O** • Samuel was a gift from God to his parents. (1 Samuel 1:27)
- W**

### CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Secure in God's kindness and love.
- E** • Delighted to know they are a gift to their families.
- E** • Eager to give gifts of kindness to others.
- L**

### CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Choose ways to show kindness and love to their families.
- O** • Compare their lives to the lives of Bible-times children.
- DiscipleSkill: Practice gift giving.

# Make Disciples

**Teacher**—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

## Opening Prayer

Ask the Lord to be present in your class, and thank Him for each child by name. Thank God for His kindness, and for the gifts the children are to your class, their families, and to God, Himself.

## WorldWatch

**Missionary Biography 3 of 12—William Carey—The Voyage** *Missionary stories can have a profound impact on children. Take 1-2 minutes to read this brief narrative. Download discussion questions at [DiscipleLand.com/downloads](http://DiscipleLand.com/downloads).*

**Flap. Flap. Flap. The sails of the big ship are full of wind. William Carey and his family are on board, sailing to India. Mrs. Carey, her sister, and the Carey children are often seasick. But, every day, William studies hard. He learns languages spoken in India. His wife, Dorothy, spends a lot of time crying. She is sad because she is leaving her life in England behind. The voyage is very long and very dangerous. In these times even big ships sink in fierce storms. But God protects the Carey family and the crew. After many months they sail around the southern tip of Africa. The ship then turns north and heads for India. Finally they see the shores of their new home. How happy they are! The Careys praise God. Their long, long trip is almost over. But what is waiting for them in India?**

## Missions Education—God’s Great Family

To add this component to the lesson, download the teacher script at [DiscipleLand.com/downloads](http://DiscipleLand.com/downloads).

## KeyVerse

**Topic:** Children

**Reference:** *Proverbs 23:25*

**Memorization Activity:** Write the verse from your favorite translation of the Bible on a board and explain any difficult words or phrases. Bring out your Shepherd’s Bag and let the

## DISCIPLESHIP TIP

As you teach, be open to the Holy Spirit affirming to the children that they are invaluable, beloved members of God’s family. This might be a totally new concept to some children. Watch for opportunities to include this fact. Expect special things to happen as you and the Holy Spirit teach in tandem.

children guess what’s inside (a baby doll). Pull out the child doll and rehearse the verse several times. Lead the children, saying it slowly while pointing to the words. After the verse is familiar, put the words and phrases to a rhythm and have the kids clap or stamp their feet in rhythm. As they repeat the verse, challenge them to go faster and faster. Practice until they begin to know the verse, including the topic and reference.

## God Is the Greatest!

Download the entire recitation at [DiscipleLand.com/downloads](http://DiscipleLand.com/downloads). Build from the previous lessons and teach children the following:

**God is Kind**

**He does what’s best for us.** (pat someone on back and show big smile)

## Bonus Resources

Access free downloads for this lesson at [DiscipleLand.com/downloads](http://DiscipleLand.com/downloads).

- Contemporary Dee Cy Paul Chip (Discipleship) story
- Puppet script and lesson “bookends”
- More activity ideas
- Activity templates and downloads
- *Explore Scripture* teacher notecards

## SUPPLIES ✓

### General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides (pages 9-12)  
Pencils, markers, crayons  
Paper, notecards, scissors, tape, glue

### Make Disciples

Shepherd’s Bag, baby doll

### Spark Interest

- MORNING MUSTER: none
- GIFT BOX GUESS: shoe box or similar sized box with removable lid, gift-wrap, toy baby doll

### Explore Scripture

Signs printed with “Shiloh” and “Ramah”  
Teaching Picture 1A.5—Hannah praying  
Teaching Picture 1A.6—Hannah and Samuel

### Inspire Action

- GIFT CARD: envelopes, glitter, ribbon, stickers, other art supplies
- HANNAH’S PRAYER: none
- GIFT SNACKS: graham crackers, frosting or cream cheese, raisins or sprinkles or shredded coconut

## Spark Interest

**Teacher**—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

### Morning Muster (5-10 minutes)

*This game stimulates children to compare and contrast the lives of Bible-times children with their own.*

Space children around the room against the walls. Spread out as much as possible. **This game will show how we did things alike this morning. I'll start by naming something I did this morning. If you did that thing too, you run over and join me. After we make a group, you run back to your spot and someone else will tell a thing they did this morning. If you did the same thing, run over to that person.** Start the game by stating something you did today, such as brush your teeth, make your bed, or walk down some stairs. Whoever did that same thing should run to join you, then return to their original location. Call out different children, one at a time, to state an action they did. Others who did the same thing will run to that person, and then return to their spot.

**We did many of the same things already today. Now come to me if you've done any of these this morning.** Fetched water from a well, tended sheep, rolled up your bed and put it on a shelf. When no one comes to you, say, **Bible-times kids did these and other things we do not do anymore, but you are like them in one important way: God loves you and shows His kindness to you just as He did to them.**

OR

### Gift Box Guess (5-10 minutes)

*This group activity introduces the idea that children are God's gifts to their families.* **Supplies:** shoe box or similar sized box, wrapping paper, toy baby doll.

Before class, wrap a box in gift wrap and wrap the lid separately. Put a baby doll inside the box. (If you have the means, a fun variation on this activity is to "wrap" a real child inside a large box!) During class, gather the children and hold the box tantalizingly in front of them as you explain the activity.

**There's something inside this box, but I'm not going to tell you what it is. You all get to take a turn guessing what's inside.** Let children pass the box around and guess at the contents. They can hold it, shake it, etcetera, but not open it. **We all like to get gifts, don't we? Well each of you are a special gift from God to your family!** Open the box and show them the doll. **Today we'll learn about a baby who was a special gift from God to his mother.**

### Disciple Guide—page 9

As students decode the word, explain ways that God is kind. Complete this page at the beginning of class or after a *Spark Interest* activity.

9



God always gives good things and treats His people well. Use Paul's special code to find out something about God.

God is K I N D



D =  = K

N =  = I

How has God shown kindness to your family?



# Explore Scripture

**Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include Teaching Pictures and exercises from the student Disciple Guides.**

## 1 Samuel 1:1—2:11

Make and mount two signs in two different areas of the room—one labeled “Shiloh” and one labeled “Ramah.” Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11. **What’s the best gift you’ve ever received?** Let each child share. **We’ve all received some nice gifts. Today’s lesson is about a really special gift someone received.** Point out the signs you’ve posted in two spots in the room—“Shiloh” and “Ramah.” Explain that when the people in the Bible story move to Shiloh or Ramah, everyone will move to that sign.

The person who received this gift was a woman named Hannah. She lived in a town called Ramah in Israel. Get up and move with the class to that area. Hannah’s husband was a man named Elkanah. They loved each other and loved God. Hannah knew God was kind. But Hannah was really sad. She wanted a baby more than anything, but she wasn’t able to have one. She prayed every day for a baby. Every year she was more and more sad because she still didn’t have a child. In Bible days, a family really counted on having children to help them do the work the family needed. Elkanah was disappointed too, but he still loved Hannah.

Every year Elkanah took Hannah to Shiloh, a city where God’s people gave offerings at the tabernacle to honor God. Move to the Shiloh sign. Hannah was very sad. At the tabernacle, Hannah prayed again for God to let her have a baby. She wanted this so much that she was crying and praying silently. Hannah promised God that if He gave her a child, she would give her child back to God to serve Him in the tabernacle. Show the Teaching Picture 1A.5 of Hannah praying. What a nice gift Hannah was willing to give to God!



The priest, Eli, saw Hannah praying with all her heart. Hannah told Eli she was praying for God to give her a baby boy. Eli understood Hannah’s sadness. God’s Spirit moved him to tell her, “Go home in peace. May God give you what you’ve asked for.” Hannah felt so much better. She went back to Ramah with Elkanah, (move to the Ramah sign) and before the next



year was up—God gave Hannah a baby! She was so excited and pleased with this gift from God. Show the Teaching Picture 1A.6 of Hannah and Samuel.

Hannah named her son Samuel because that name means “asked of God.” She had asked, and God in His kindness had answered her prayer. Samuel was the precious gift Hannah had always wanted. Did you know you are a precious gift to your parents and they were just as excited when God gave you to them?

When Samuel was three years old, Hannah knew it was time to keep her promise to God. She and Elkanah traveled to Shiloh again (move to the Shiloh sign) and they took Samuel, too. When they offered their sacrifices to God, they thanked Him for being kind and for the wonderful gift of their son.

When Hannah and Elkanah were ready to leave, they brought Samuel to Eli the priest. Eli agreed to train Samuel to serve God, just as Hannah had promised. Hannah gave God a gift by giving her son to serve Him.

# 10

Hannah’s Gift | Samuel 1:1—2:11

Put these pictures in the right order.



1. Hannah prays for a child.
2. God answers Hannah’s prayer!
3. Hannah takes Samuel to the Temple.

Why was Samuel a special gift from God to his parents?

She told Eli, “I prayed to have this child, and God gave me what I asked for. Now I’m lending Samuel back to God for as long as he lives.” Then Hannah and Elkanah went back home. Move to Ramah sign. They knew they would visit Samuel every year.

How do you think Hannah might have felt about leaving Samuel with Eli? Have children consider and share. She might have been a little sad and lonely, but she was also happy. God was kind to give her the precious gift she asked for, and now her son was serving God. Each of you is a precious gift to your family from God, too!

**Disciple Guide—page 10**

Help your children number the three pictures to put this passage in the correct order.

**Disciple Guide—page 11**

Encourage students to identify the correct pictures. Complete the HeartBeat.

**Inspire Action**

**Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.**

**Gift Card (10-15 minutes)**

*This craft gives children a tangible way to show appreciation for their families.* **Supplies:** index cards, envelopes, markers, glitter, ribbon, stickers, glue, tape, other art supplies

Explain to your children that they will design gift cards to give to their families. A template is available online at [DiscipleLand.com/downloads](http://DiscipleLand.com/downloads). Help children think of ways to show that they love and appreciate their families (help with a chore, make a card, give extra hugs, give a back rub, etc.) and communicate their ideas via the gift card. Seal the finished cards inside envelopes which the kids can decorate like a gift using ribbon, glitter, markers, etc.

When the children have finished, ask them to share how they’ll present the gifts to their families. **Giving a gift is a way of showing kindness. What are some gifts God gives us every day?**

OR

**Hannah’s Prayer (10 minutes)**

*This prayer and discussion encourages students to ask God for their needs.*

Take some special time to pray, modeling Hannah’s faith. Discuss the difference between needs and wants. Then compile a list from the children of specific prayer requests that God could answer for them. Lead the children together in prayer for each request. After you have prayed for one student, pause and have the children join you in praying aloud in unison “May God give you what you’ve asked for.” After praying, conclude with the comment that God has heard our prayers and He always answers. He may say “yes” right away. He may say “wait” just like He told Hannah. Or He may answer “no,” but when He does, it is because He knows what is best for all of us.

OR

**Gift Snacks (10 minutes)**

*This snack applies the skill of giving gifts.* **Supplies:** graham crackers, plastic knives, frosting or cream cheese, simple decorations (raisins, sprinkles, shredded coconut, etc.).

Children can create “gifts” for each family member by frosting graham cracker squares and

**11**

Be Kind

God wants children to be kind like Him. Cross out the pictures that do not show kindness.



Children are God’s most precious gifts to parents. Your family is God’s gift to you! Write one reason your family is special to you.

**they love me  
no matter what**

decorating them. They may also make one for themselves to eat. Before they eat their snack, ask each child to share a way her or she will show love to his or her family this week. Watch for chances to compliment children who demonstrate kindness, just as God is kind to us.

### Closing Prayer

Allow children to share a family concern you can pray about. After praying about these concerns, pray a brief blessing over the children, affirming that they are God's children, each made unique and special. Thank God for loving them and for showing kindness.

### Closing Words

**What have you learned about God today?** (He's kind.)  
**What have you learned about yourselves?** (We're God's gift to our families.) **When you come back next time, we'll discover more about Samuel as he grew up. And we'll find out how much you've grown since last year!**



**Teacher**—Children should complete this page on their own or at home with a parent.

### DiscipleSkill How to Show Respect

During this quarter, your children will learn manner skills that will help them respect others. Be sure to explain any difficult words and concepts they may encounter.

**Gift Giving**—Read the text aloud. Ask your students how gifts they've given have made someone feel special. Challenge them to see how many gifts from God they can notice this week.

### DiscipleZone.com

Direct children to [DiscipleZone.com/1A3](http://DiscipleZone.com/1A3) for:

**XploreMore** *Discover how to show God's kindness!*

**SwordWork** *Read Mark 1:14-20.*

**WorldWatch** *Explore the continent of Asia.*

**Dee-Cy-Paul Live!** *Paul discovers Mrs. Brown's gifts.*

**KeyVerse** *Memorize Proverbs 23:25.*

**HymnNotes** *Discover the lyrics to "For the Beauty of the Earth."*

Lesson 3

12

**DiscipleSkill**

**How to Show Respect**

**12**

Class Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Give Gifts**

Giving gifts to others is fun! Gifts make people feel special.

Circle the special gifts God has given to you.

You are so thoughtful!

**John the Baptist**

Who was put in prison before Jesus began to preach the good news? The answer at [DiscipleZone.com/1A3](http://DiscipleZone.com/1A3)

**Disciple Guide—page 12**

Encourage kids to complete DiscipleZone before the next lesson. Explain that activities are available at a special website—

[DiscipleZone.com](http://DiscipleZone.com)

—where kids go to grow! Children should visit the website with their parents to complete the online activities.