

WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Step two,
talk to God.

THE BIBLE

Hannah Prays for a Baby: I Samuel 1:4-20;
Psalm 16

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "Your Power Will Pull Us Through" (Group Publishing)
 - "Pray" (Vineyard Kids)
 - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
 - "Something Good" (Gateway Kids Worship)

ACTIVITY | Nailed It! Fruit It Up

- Hello, friends! Welcome back to The Plate It Cooking Show! Last time, we started learning about the prophets in the Bible and how trusting God is one step we can take to prepare us for doing life with God! Kicking off today with our "Nailed It!" segment is an eggs-ellent way to start the show! I'll do my best to make my food look as close to the model as possible.
- **What course of a meal comes after you get your drink?** The appetizers, of course, and I happen to like appetizers *berry* much! Let's see what appetizer I'll be challenged to make today.
- *[Carefully lift the decorated box to reveal the model fruit kabob arrangement.]*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, place the prepared appetizer or picture model on the table and cover it with the decorative box. Place the ingredients box (ingredients listed in your Shop & Prep list) on the table. "Build" your food behind the ingredients box to build up suspense. Have kids only see you picking the fruit, skewers, or other individual items. Have fun, and purposefully don't "nail it!" For example, complete the pattern of fruit wrong.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Compile a list of popular appetizers and ask the group to rank which ones are their favorites. Create an elimination chart or a digital poll to see which apps "take the cake"!

- You ready to see how we did? Nailed it!
- Last time, we said that step one in our life with God is to trust God! Just like how appetizers come after getting our drinks, today we're talking about what we can do after we make the choice to trust God.

ACTIVITY | Blind Cooking Challenge

- Let's have a blind cooking challenge! Can you imagine having to cook something blindfolded? That is *whisk-y* business and would probably be frustrating. It'd be a little easier if you had someone to talk you through the steps, though!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have two, or more, pairs of kids come to the front. Set out the cucumber slices, sliced cheese, and pieces of lunch meat, along with plates. Blindfold one of the kids from each pair.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** To add a layer of difficulty for the preteen crowd, have kids spread jam or mayonnaise while blindfolded.

- One of you will be blindfolded and will be preparing a simple appetizer. You will make three [cucumber sandwiches](#). The partner will help by using only verbal communication to help — that means no hands!
- [Give them a few minutes and see who is the closest to completing the task. Afterwards, interview the blindfolded kids about their experience.]
- **What made it easier for you to find things and put the sandwiches together? What advice would you have for someone if they were to do the challenge next?**
- That definitely wasn't an easy pea-sy task! They couldn't see who they were talking to, but they knew their partner was there to help them. Having someone to talk to and ask questions helped a ton!

ACTIVITY | What's on the Menu?

- **When you have questions about something at a restaurant, who do you ask?** Yes! A server is usually the one who answers your questions about the menu.
- **What are some questions you usually ask a server?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to pair up and pretend to be the server and the customer with the menu. The menu printable will have questions for them to ask the server. Have them take turns asking the question, being the server, and being the customer!

- Sometimes, we have some questions about the menu. The best way to get answers is to ask the server about it. There can be times when the server doesn't know the answer so we need to be polite and patient.
- Let's see what we can do when we don't have the answers we need!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

BIBLE STORY | Hannah Prays for a Baby

- Are you guys ready to tune into the Bible story segment of The Plate It Cooking Show? I need my sous chef to help me with all the "ingredients" I need for the Bible story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a volunteer that you have prepared ahead of time to help you tell today's story from 1 Samuel 1:4–20.
- There were some amazing prophets in the Bible. **Who remembers what a prophet's job was?** You guys are such smart cookies. A prophet was someone chosen by God to speak for God to the people who needed to hear God's message.
- Today, we're going to *dip* into the story of a prophet, which actually began with his mother before he was even born!
- [Read verses 4–6.]
 - Even though Hannah was loved very much, she was very sad because she didn't have any children of her own.
 - But that's not all. Hannah was being teased because she couldn't have children. She was pretty irritated, or annoyed, in the beginning.
 - **Sous chef, can you show us what an annoyed face looks like?**
- [Read verses 7–8. Have volunteer hand you food, but shake your head and refuse.]
 - Because the teasing went on for so long, Hannah began to cry and not eat!
 - **Sous chef, what does a sad, weepy face look like?**
- [Read verses 9–10.]
 - Hannah was distraught. She didn't know what to do. So she went to the temple and began to pray.
 - **Sous chef, could you read for us what Hannah prayed in verse 11?**
- [Read verses 12–14.]
 - Eli, the priest, thought Hannah had too much to drink because he couldn't hear what Hannah was praying.
 - **Why couldn't Eli hear?** Because she was praying in her heart. **Sous chef, could you make us one heart out of this paper?** [If your volunteer is younger, have the heart cut out beforehand and have them hand it to you.]
- [Read verses 15–16.]
 - Hannah had some big emotions on her heart. **Did you catch any of them?**
 - **Sous chef, help us write down some of these emotions on the heart.** [Re-read the portions with "deeply troubled," "great anguish," and "grief," and write those words on the heart.]

- [Read verses 17–18, flipping the heart over and writing “peace” and “favor” on it as you read those words. Hold out your hand and have the volunteer give you a snack to “eat.”]
 - Hannah was no longer downcast after praying to God, receiving Eli’s kind words, and eating some good ol’ food!
 - **Can you all show me your sad, downcast faces? Now turn that frown upside down!**
- [Read verses 19–20. Have the volunteer give you the baby doll.]
 - **When Hannah felt all these emotions inside of her, what did she do?** She talked to God about it! She prayed and poured out her soul to God. God made it possible for her to have a son, and Samuel would grow up to be a spec-taco-lar prophet for God!

BIG IDEA | Step two, talk to God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare the Big Idea “plate” according to the instructions in your Shop & Prep list. Hold the “plate” as a server would hold a platter with one hand. With your other hand, remove the tablecloth by pinching it in the center and lifting it up quickly and dramatically.
- Whether we have big or small emotions, happy or sad news, praises or frustrations, God wants us to talk about it all! Especially as we prepare to do the work God called us to do, remember: **step two, talk to God.**

VIDEO | Plate It, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Grow TV](#).

STORY | Great Service

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story about a time when you had a really great server at a restaurant. Talk about all of the things that made them great.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens pretend they are restaurant owners. What elements would they add to their business to level-up the service and make everyone feel cared for?
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Find images online of servers being helpful (e.g., bringing a refill, smiling at them, clearing a plate, etc.) Talk with kids about what is happening in each picture and why this shows care.
- What we love about stories like these are the personal care we get and the assurance that someone is always there to help.
- Great servers are like this, and God is, too. We can always talk to God. God loves it when we ask questions, share our needs and our joys, and tell God what we’re wondering about. God never gets tired of us!

ACTIVITY | Talking Lips

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a few volunteers to come forward. Split the group into as many teams as there are kids up front, and assign each volunteer to a team. Give them a sentence to communicate to their team. The catch is they can only move their lips and cannot speak out loud!

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *As an alternative to this activity, you might want to have kids either try to place lips on a Potato Head toy or use lips stickers to place on printed pictures.*

- **Was it frustrating that your team could not really understand what you were saying because they couldn't hear you?**
- Thank *gouda*-ness we never have to worry about that with God! God heard Hannah's prayer even when she was not speaking out loud, and God listens to our prayers whether we are talking out loud or not.

BIBLE | Psalm 16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find Psalm 16 in your Bible, and choose a few verses in Psalm 16 to draw attention to.*
- **What kinds of things did David, the writer of Psalm 16, talk to God about in these verses?**
 - David requested that God would keep him safe (verse 1).
 - Nothing else mattered to David if he didn't have God (verse 2).
 - God was the only thing David needed. David was confident in God's ability to keep him safe (verse 5).
 - David praised God for guiding him (verse 7).
 - David told God that he would be faithful to God (verse 8).
 - David ended by saying how he had joy and was hopeful in the future that God has planned for him (verses 9-11).
- There are so many things we can talk to God about. Sometimes we can get *whisked* up in just asking God for things. But we can talk to God like we talk to anybody.
- Jesus made this possible for us. Remember in today's Bible story, Hannah and her family had to offer sacrifices and they had to hear from God through a priest? But because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can talk directly to God whenever we want.
- So don't skip this step in our recipe in your life with God: **step two, talk to God.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Recipe Card, Step Two

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the recipe card aloud for the kids. Review the Big Idea and have the kids fill in the blanks on their recipe cards. Then invite them to have a time of reflection and write down their responses to the prompt.*
- **Step two, talk to God.** Write about the top three things on your prayer list.

ACTIVITY | Talk-to-Me Scenarios

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite the kids to imagine themselves in the scenarios you're about to read to them. Ask kids to name an emotion they might feel and/or what they could talk to God about in that situation.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Visuals are very important for any lesson on feelings as some kids struggle with expressing through words. Provide a variety of faces (e.g., happy, excited, sad, angry, scared, etc.) to help them describe how they might feel in each scenario.*

- Scenario 1: You're at a busy grocery store. You turn around, and your parent is nowhere in sight. You start running up and down the aisles looking for them.
- Scenario 2: Your parent said to wait until after dinner to have a cookie. You storm out of the kitchen, stomping your feet. You really want to take the cookie now without permission.
- Scenario 3: You were teased at school for the lunch you brought from home today, and you cried.
- Scenario 4: Your grandparent just cooked your favorite meal!
- There are so many different kinds of situations we find ourselves in each day, and God wants to hear about it from us! Don't forget, **step two, talk to God.**

MEMORY VERSE | Crazy Plates

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into smaller groups. Prepare a set of plates for each group by writing the words or phrases of Ephesians 2:10 on each plate. Mix up the plates, and place them face down. Have kids take turns flipping one plate over at a time. If it doesn't have the next word or phrase on it, have them flip the plate back over and allow another kid a turn. If it has the next phrase in the verse, have them keep the plate face up and place it next to the one with the previous phrase. After each phrase is found, have kids repeat the part of the verse they've put together so far until they are able to say the whole verse.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Mix up all of the words/phrases and ask each group to put it in order as quickly as possible. To make it even more challenging, ask them to complete the task wearing oven mitts!*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for being so easy to talk to. You never stop listening to us! Help us remember that we can talk to you anywhere, anytime, and about anything. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Why was Hannah so deeply troubled?
- What did Hannah promise God if she was given a son?
- Why did Hannah name her baby Samuel?
- Read 1 Samuel 1:18. Hannah had more peace after talking to God. Have you ever experienced God's peace in your heart after talking to God?
- Do you ever feel like you can't talk with God about something? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God wants us to pray?
- What is one thing you want to tell God right now?

ACTIVITY | Toque to God

- God loves it when we pray. Sometimes it's helpful to write out our prayers. Let's write or draw a prayer to God on the brim of our chef's hats, or toques!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hand out one chef's hat per kid, and invite the kids to write or draw their prayer. After they are finished, let them decorate their hats.*

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Ephesians2-10.*
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."**