

WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Step two,
talk to God.

THE BIBLE

Hannah Prays for a Baby:
1 Samuel 1:4-20

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Jam Session

- **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)
 - "I Will Pray" (Yancy)
 - "Trust In You" (Kidspring)
 - "God's Handiwork" (Lantern Music)

ACTIVITY | Fruit It Up

- Hello, friends! Welcome back to The Plate It Cooking Show! Last week, 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!
- After that good cup of morning OJ we made last time, I think what we need today is an appetizer. An appetizer is food we eat before the main dish.
- Today we are making this fruit kabob. [Reveal sample or picture.] Do you think it will be easy to make? What do you think I need to do?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, place the prepared appetizer or a picture of it on the table with the rest of the ingredients and supplies you'll need. Have kids call out instructions for you to make the fruit kabob. Prompt them with questions like, "What do I need to put next to make it look like the picture/sample?"

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Turn this into a craft activity for toddlers. Create a pattern kabob by cutting out fruit pictures and glueing them together.

- Phew, I'm so glad you all were here to help me make this. Talking through a problem is the easiest way to solve it!

ACTIVITY | Brown Bag Challenge

- Let's have a brown bag challenge! Maybe you've had lunch packed in a brown bag before. You may have even had a brown bag filled with yummy surprises. These bags have food surprises in them. I wonder if you can guess what they are!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare the mystery bags according to the instructions in the Shop & Prep List. Have the kids, one at a time, choose a bag. Open the bag for them and allow them to put their hand in the bag to see if they can guess what it is just by touching it. Have an adult or student leader nearby to ask questions as needed to help the children guess what their item might be. After a few minutes, pull the item from the bag and see if they were correct. Continue play until all of the bags have been explored.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Allow the children to choose a brown paper bag to open. Then have them tell you what the food is inside of the bag.

- That was a little tricky trying to guess what was in the bag! Having [name of adult or student leader] to talk to and ask questions helped a ton!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Hannah Prays for a Baby

- Are you guys ready to tune in to the Bible story segment of The Plate It Cooking Show?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read or summarize today's Bible story from 1 Samuel 1:4–20. Prepare a large cutout of a heart and a baby doll.
- **Who remembers what a prophet is?** 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 hear about a prophet, but first we are going to learn about his mom.
- There was a woman named Hannah. Hannah was being teased because she couldn't have a baby. This made Hannah very, very sad.
- **What does a sad face look like?**
- Because the teasing went on for so long, Hannah began to cry and not eat!
- **Can you pretend to cry?**
- Hannah began to pray for a baby, a son.
- The Bible tells us that Hannah prayed to God in her heart. Her lips were moving but no one could hear the words. Only God could. This is what Hannah prayed:
 - [Cover your face with the heart cutout.] "God I am so sad and hurt. Please remember me and answer my prayer. If you give me a son, I promise he will serve you and do your work his whole life!"

- The person in charge at the temple was a priest named Eli. Eli asked Hannah why she was crying. When Hannah told him, he told her that God had heard her prayer.
- So, Hannah was no longer sad after praying to God!
- **Can you show me your best happy face?**
- The Bible then tells us that after a while, God heard Hannah's prayers and gave her a baby! *[Pass around baby doll.]* She named him Samuel, which means, "God heard."
- Just like Samuel's name, God heard Hannah's prayers when she talked to God about her problems!

BIG IDEA | Step two, talk to God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a new Big Idea plate for this week. 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. (You could use the same prop as last week and simply cover the Big Idea from last week with the new one.)
- Today's Big Idea is: **Step two, talk to God.**

VIDEO | Plate It, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Talking Takes Time

- **How do we talk to God?** Yes, by praying!
- **Does God answer right away?** Sometimes, but a lot of times, we have to wait patiently for God to answer. But it's not because God isn't listening.
- God might want us to wait because God knows exactly when is the perfect time for our prayers to be answered.
- Today's activity is going to show us what it's like to wait for something good!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Distribute the printable printed on shrink paper and have kids color it in with markers or colored pencils. Help them write their names on the back and cut out the shape. Place one sheet at a time in the toaster (or two if you have a second rack), until you see the paper curling up then settling down. Remove from the toaster and set aside to cool. If possible, have a volunteer do this on the side and return everyone's shrunken pictures at the end of the day. Alternatively, you could have kids actually bake cookies with cookie dough, or fill a jar with a small scoop of water beads to collect later.
- We really want this treat back to us right away, but we have to wait if we want things to turn out the way they're supposed to.
- After trusting God — which was step one — we need to follow **step two, talk to God**. And when we talk to God, we still have to trust God even when things take time.

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.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Apple Smiles

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids affix two googly eyes on a small plate. Give each kid one apple wedge, and on their plate have them turn the apple facing down (for sad) and turn it up (for smiles). Afterward, give them more apple wedges to munch on. Be aware of any food allergies that might exist.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** As a precaution so that kids don't accidentally ingest the googly eyes, just have them hold the apple wedges up to their faces to make happy and sad faces.
- In today's story, we heard how Hannah was sad, but then she was happy after she talked to God.
- **Show me a sad face on your plate!**
- **Show me a happy face on your plate!**

ACTIVITY | Special Order

- When you are at a restaurant, or even when you go to a drive-thru, you can't get your food unless you tell them what you want.
- Today, I will be your chef and I am taking special orders! You must tell me exactly what you want to eat. I can't really make it for you but I will try my best to draw what you "order" on a piece of paper that you can keep!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put on a chef's hat and have kids tell you their "order." Draw their order on a piece of paper and hand it to them. See if any of the kids want to try being the chef.
- **Did I get your "order" right?**
- Well, luckily, God is way better at listening to us and giving us what we need. And you know what, unlike being at a restaurant, God knows what we need even when we *don't* ask!
- But it's important that we ask anyway because talking to God is what helps us know God more.
- **What did Hannah talk to God about?**
- **What did Hannah promise she would do if God gave her a baby?**
- **Did God answer Hannah's prayer?**

ACTIVITY | Pudding Painting

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tape the pudding bags down to the tables. Then explain how they can use their fingers to move the pudding inside of the bag to draw things they can talk to God about. You can also have them spell out the word "pray".
- **Why did Hannah name her baby Samuel?**
- **Do you think God hears your prayers?**
- Hannah prayed to God and asked for a son. God answered Hannah's prayer.
- God hears us when we pray, too. We can pray to God anywhere, anytime, and about anything.
- **Can you think of something you need?** Good! Now, for **step two, talk to God!**

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Point out the memory verse on the paper plate and repeat it together. Encourage the children to add praying hands stickers around the edge of the plate as a reminder that they can talk to God.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Trace the children's hands on the plates and have them say, "I am God's handiwork. I can use my hands to pray."

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse. For added fun, keep their coloring pages each week, and at the end of the month, bind them together to create a coloring page "recipe book" they can take home!

ACTIVITY | Restaurant Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up an area with aprons, toy plates, utensils, play food, small notepads, and crayons. Have kids take turns pretending to be servers, cooks, and customers at a restaurant. See how quickly the servers and cooks can prepare the orders.

ACTIVITY | Are You Praying?

- Hannah talked to God and we can talk to God, too. Let's sing a song to help us remember today's Big Idea.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach the children the following finger play, sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques".
- **What is** (hold hands out to the side) **step two** (hold up two fingers), **What is** (hold hands out to the side) **step two** (hold up two fingers)
- **Talk to** (cup hands around mouth) **God** (point up), **Talk to** (cup hands around mouth) **God** (point up)
- **God is** (point up) **always listening** (cup hand to ear), **God is** (point up) **always listening** (cup hand to ear)
- **When we pray** (bring hands together), **When we pray** (bring hands together)

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.