LESSON 7

HANNAH PRAYS TO GOD



Aim: **To show the children how Hannah found comfort in prayer when no-one else understood her trouble and sorrow.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 1:1-20**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 121:7**
The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life …

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class to name some things that make a husband and wife unhappy in their home life. Suggestions: Sometimes there is not enough money, or there are problems caused by drunkenness, or the couple is unable to have children.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. A woman called Hannah loved her husband, Elkanah, very much. He also loved her. However, Hannah was unhappy because she had no children. This distressed her very much (1:1-2, 5).
2. Peninnah, Elkanah's second wife, upset Hannah and made her miserable. She taunted Hannah so much about her being childless that Hannah could not eat (1:6-7).
3. Every year the family went to worship in the house of God at Shiloh. They took animal offerings to sacrifice to God. Hannah always found this time the most difficult. Since God had not given her children her offering to God had to be smaller than Peninnah's (1:3-4, 8).
4. One year Hannah became so upset that she left the family meal and went to the temple to express her sadness to God in prayer. Hannah then made a promise to God: If he gave her a son she would dedicate him to God (1:9-11).
5. Eli, the high priest, watched Hannah praying. **Show Picture 7.** She wept much and moved her lips in urgent prayer, but because Eli could not hear the words he thought she was drunk. He was angry at her for coming to the Lord's house in such a disgraceful state (1:12-14). What a sad mistake Eli made!
6. When Hannah corrected his terrible misunderstanding Eli blessed her (1:15-17).
7. God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. She called him Samuel, which means "Heard of God", because Hannah had asked the Lord for this son (1:19-20).

Look,Listen&Live_Book4.indd 22 2012/09/10 11:05 AM



Our Response to the Story

Hannah is yet another servant of God who provides us with a good example to follow. When she was miserable and no-one understood or could help her, she poured out her troubles to God (1:15). God is always there to listen to us.

After she had prayed Hannah was at peace. She was no longer sad and she was able to eat again (1:18). We should do what Hannah did and find comfort by trusting in the Lord.

Instil the Memory Verse

God comforted Hannah in her time of trouble.

Review the verses of Psalm 121 the children have learnt so far.



Look,Listen&Live_Book4.indd 23 2012/09/10 11:05 AM