

GOD GIVES CHILDREN

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: FAMILY

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES CHILDREN

1 Samuel 1:1-2; 1:19-20; 2:20-21; Psalm 127:3-5; 128:3-4; Proverbs 17:6; 1 Timothy 5:4

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 127:3

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”

BIG IDEAS

- Children are a gift from God.
- Children are known and created by God.
- God’s gift of children should cause parents to worship and follow God.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-2:11

Children are a gift from the Lord. For many years, Hannah prayed that God would give her a child. She wept before the Lord because her heart greatly desired to have a child. God gifted her with a son, and when he was just a few years old, Hannah gave her son back to the Lord by taking him to the temple to serve with the priest, Eli. God is the giver of all life and He gave Hannah Samuel just as He gives every parent their children.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God created the family



Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the gift of family that God has given them



Every child should:

- Practice serving the members of their family



Every child should want:

- To honor and respect their family

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GIFT OF CHILDREN

God gives every good and perfect gift. Children are a good gift from God. They are created by Him and known by Him. Children are a blessing and a heritage.

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 127:3

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”

Children are a gift from the Lord.

- All life begins with the Lord.
- He chooses to give life and to take away life.
- Children are given by God.
- Even though it requires a husband and wife to produce a child, that life is a gift from God.
- He is the one who decides to allow life to be created.
- He gives children as a gift to their parents so they can raise their children to serve the Lord.

Children are given to be sent.

- Children are not meant to be kept.
- God gives children to be taught God’s truth and to be sent out.
- Children are arrows in their parents’ hands. They are meant to be sent out into the world to serve the Lord.
- Children are not a gift intended only for the parent.
- They are given to parents to be given back to the Lord.

Children bring joy.

- When God gives children, they bring joy because they are their parent’s heritage.
- God gives good and perfect gifts. Children are no exception to this.
- Children are always a gift from the Lord and are never a mistake.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-2:11

The Birth of Samuel

Opening Illustration:

Gather together white paper, crayons, and markers. Give each child a piece of paper, crayons, and markers. Ask the children to create a self-portrait. Do not give them a lot of guidelines, except to create a self-portrait that shows who they are and where they live. When they are finished, show the class each self-portrait. Lead the children in a discussion about how God is the Creator of everything and He rules over Creation. He also created each of us to be unique.

- Were any of the self-portraits the same? (No, they are all different because we are all different.)
- God is the Creator of everything. He made the earth and He made us.
- Are we all the same? (No, we are different, even though we are all humans.)
- God created us all to be different, even though we are all created in His image.
- He also rules over all of creation because He is the ruler of all things.

BIG IDEA: CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD.¹

Ask the children to name a special gift that they have received? Share with them a special gift that you have received.

Children bring joy to their parents.

- Hannah longed for a child. Each year she remained childless, her heart grew sadder and more desperate for a child.
- Children are a special gift from God.
- Even during Jesus' earthly ministry, He welcomed children and commanded His disciples to do the same.
- Children bring joy to their parents' lives.
- They bring laughter and happiness to the home just as God intended.



Gather the children in a circle and pass a beanbag. Play music while the beanbag passes. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag gets to share a special gift that he or she has received. Remind the children that all children are a gift from God.

God blesses a person when He gives them children.

- Children are not mistakes or burdens.
- They are blessings from God because it is God who determines when a child will be born and when they will not.
- God blessed the very first husband and wife with children.
- He designed marriage to be a place where children are born and raised to fear Him.
- He designed the family to be a place where children are known as blessings and gifts.

Children are valuable to God.

- All life is valuable to God.
- Children are not less valuable than adults.
- They are very valuable to God and He considers them to be special blessings.
- Children are valuable to their parents. God gives children to bring Himself glory and to further His purposes in this world.

How are children a gift from God? (They bring joy to their parents and they are very valuable to God.)

1. Psalm 113:9: Children bring joy to their parents' hearts. They bring joy to the world.

BIG IDEA: CHILDREN ARE KNOWN AND CREATED BY GOD.²**Children are created by God in His image.**

- Children are created in God's image. They are a reflection of Him just as much as adults are a reflection of Him.
- Children are from the Lord. They are created by Him, not man.
- God chose to use a man and woman to continue life on earth, but God rules over all life.
- He determines when a child is going to be born and when it is not.
- He creates each individual child and knows them by name.



Help the children to create a picture frame using craft stickers, stickers, and glue. As the children create their picture frame, remind them that God created each one of them and knows them. Once they finish, tell the children they can place a picture of themselves in the picture frame to remind them that God knows them and created them.

God is aware of every child's life.

- Children are part of God's plan for this world.
- They are not accidents or mistakes. They are not less important than adults.
- God knows every child and is involved in their lives.
- He determined when Hannah would have a child.
- He determined that Hannah would have a son.

God knows all children.

- God knew that Hannah would have a son and he would be named Samuel.
- God knows every child by name because He is intricately involved in the creation of every person.
- God determines our days and He knows us from the very beginning before we are even born.
- Children are not less valuable or important than adults. Jesus said they were just as important and of great value to the kingdom of God.

How are children known by God? (He is their Creator and knows every person before they are even born.)

2. Matthew 19:13-15: Jesus commanded His disciples to allow the children to come to Him during His earthly ministry. Children are of great value to Him and are known by Him.

BIG IDEA: GOD'S GIFT OF CHILDREN SHOULD CAUSE PARENTS TO WORSHIP AND FOLLOW GOD.³**Children can be used by God to draw their parents closer to Him.**

- Raising children can draw parents closer to God as they seek His will and guidance to raise their children.
- Hannah was drawn closer to God because of her desire for a child and her fulfillment of her promise to give her son back to God.
- Parents who desire to raise Godly children will be drawn to God as they seek His wisdom and guidance in their parenting.
- Children are a gift that can cause parents to follow God more closely as they desire for their children to follow Him.



Help the children write out the lyrics to the first verse of "Jesus Loves The Little Children". Give the children crayons and markers to decorate their lyrics. Remind the boys and girls that children are a gift from God that can cause their parents to worship Him.

Parents should worship God when they understand the blessing that children are.

- Hannah praised God for blessing her with a child.
- She completely understood that God was the giver of life and He had given her a child.
- Parents can worship God when they understand that their children are given to them by God.
- When they understand that it is God who determines when they have children and for how long they have their children, they should worship God.

Children help parents see God's greatness.

- Having children can help a person see just how great God is.
- When they experience the joy of having children and understand that it is God's great blessing that has given the children, they should worship Him.
- Parents can see God's greatness in their children as they watch their children grow and understand that God knows their children and created them uniquely and individually for His purposes.

How can children cause parents to worship God? (When they understand what a blessing children are, they will worship God.)

3. ³ John 1:4: It brings a parent great joy when their children follow God.

HOOKS

**Paper-Chain Blessings**

Help the children create a paper doll chain using construction paper. Next, ask the children to write down the names of their friends on each of the dolls. Talk with the children about how each child is a blessing from God. Lead them in a discussion about how children are a gift from God.

**Thumbprint Classroom Trees**

Use finger paint and cardstock to create thumbprint classroom trees. Ask each child to dip his or her thumb into the finger paint and make a thumbprint on each child's paper. Next, help the children draw a tree trunk and give them markers to color the tree trunk and add limbs under the thumbprints. Lead the children in a discussion about how God creates every child and knows every child.

