

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

THE GIFT OF CHILDREN

Help your child create a collage using magazine pictures or pictures printed of him or her. The collage should show your child's personality. Talk with your child about how God created him or her and how he or she is a gift from God. Children are a gift from God.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Hannah was one of Elkanah's two wives. Elkanah and his wives lived in the hill country of Ephraim. Elkanah's one wife, Peninnah had many sons and daughters, but Hannah had none. Every year, Peninnah would provoke Hannah and taunt her about being childless. Hannah was very sorrowful that she had no children. She prayed, asking God to give her a child. She begged God to bless her with a child. Hannah knew that children came from the Lord and she desperately wanted a child. God heard Hannah's cries and He blessed her with a child. God gave her a son and Hannah called him Samuel. When Hannah asked God to give her a child, she made a promise to God if He gave her a child, she would give the child back to Him in service. Hannah kept her promise. When she had weaned Samuel, she took him to the temple and gave him to Eli the priest to serve the Lord. Children are a gift from God. He chooses who has children and who doesn't. He blesses people with children because He is the Creator of all life.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- What did Hannah beg God for? (She begged Him to give her a child.)
- What did God do for Hannah? (He answered her prayer and gave her a son.)
- How did Hannah respond to God's blessing of a son? (Hannah worshiped God and gave her son in service to God.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Psalm 127:3 by playing a game of hide and seek. The person who is found last gets to say the verse out loud.

**DO**

Spend some time showing your child pictures of him or her when they were babies. Remind your child that children are a gift from God.

**FEEL**

A couple of times this week, give your child a small gift. You could prepare a special dish, make a special breakfast, or buy a small toy or item that he or she has wanted. At the end of the week, talk with your child about how God gives children as a gift just like you've given him or her gifts all week. Remind your child that children are very valuable to God.

**WANT**

Spend time with your child this week praying and thanking God for his or her life. Talk with your child about how God gives children as a gift and they are very valuable to Him.