

PRAYER WARRIORS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Be honest with God when you pray.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to be honest and direct when they pray for what they need.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 1:1-20, Hannah Prays For a Son

MEMORY VERSE:

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

When Hannah prayed for a son, she didn't hold back her pain and fear. Kids will learn that when they talk to God they should be honest and hold nothing back.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

We know you know our needs before we ask, and we ask you to help us be honest and open when we pray.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

MEMORY VERSE

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

“Give a lot of time and effort to prayer. Always be watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room between girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls the third, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Read the memory verse aloud for each kid. Each time you do, leave out one word. See if the kids can tell you what word you left out.

PRAYER WARRIORS

SKIT

THE PRAYER DOCTOR: HONESTY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

April- A TV host

Doc- The Prayer Doctor

April and Doc sit in chairs, angled toward one another, like a talk show set.

APRIL: Hello, and welcome to the Prayer Doctor. I'm your host, April, and joining me as always is the man with the hotline to God, the Prayer Doctor.

DOC: *(munching popcorn)* Oh, are we on the air again? Silly me!

APRIL: Wow, that looks like great popcorn.

DOC: It's kettle corn.

APRIL: Kettle corn?

DOC: Yes, a little sweet, a little salty.

APRIL: That's the best!

DOC: You know it! *(chomps some more)*

APRIL: Gee, I wish I had some popcorn.

SKIT

DOC: It does make a tasty treat.

APRIL: Yeah, I'd love to have a few pieces.

The Doctor continues to eat, offering nothing. After a few seconds, he looks over.

DOC: April, do you want some of my kettle—

APRIL: YES!

DOC: Then ask for it. Don't just hint around. Ask!

APRIL: May I please have some kettle corn?

DOC: Help yourself.

April takes some popcorn.

DOC: Some people are so afraid to ask for what they want. But if you don't ask, you'll never receive.

APRIL: You know, that's just what today's letter—

DOC: Don't talk with your mouth full.

APRIL: Sorry. *(chews and swallows)* Today's letter says, "Dear Prayer Doctor, How should I ask God for something that I need? I know God isn't like a snack machine, and I can't just run and ask him for any old thing I want, but what about the things I need?"

DOC: That's a great question, and the answer is the same as your popcorn dilemma. Be honest. Let God know what you need and why you need it.

APRIL: But doesn't God already know?

DOC: Of course he does, but God still wants us to ask.

APRIL: But what if God doesn't give us what we ask for?

DOC: God never leaves prayers unanswered. Sometimes, through prayer, he'll show us that thing we thought we needed isn't what we needed at all. Sometimes God has other plans better than our own. But make no mistake about it, God will always give us what we need.

SKIT

APRIL: Thank you, Doctor. That's good to know. May I have some more kettle corn?

DOC: Soon as you wrap up the show.

APRIL: Join us next time when we'll discuss whether or not to say grace over movie theater popcorn. Bye!

April grabs some more popcorn.

PRAYER WARRIORS

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Ads from a magazine or mail flier (products, campaign ads, etc.)

Pass a few ads out to the kids and have them read to the group.

Do you ever look at these ads and think, “Are they telling the truth?” Is this product, this candidate, really going to do everything this ad says?

If it’s a political candidate, you better be careful. It’s a rare politician who tells you the truth on everything upfront. If it’s a food or household product... it might do what it says. But you have to remember, this ad isn’t here to simply tell you what something does. This ad was made to convince you to buy.

In our world, where we are constantly bombarded by media. There are a thousand voices trying to get our attention so that we will spend our money. Advertisers will say anything if they think it will make you buy.

God isn’t like that. God hears every prayer spoken, but God wants us to always be honest. If we have a need, God wants us to ask for that need. If we have a desire, he wants to hear it. If we are angry, God wants to hear that as well.

There’s no use lying to God or even hinting around with him. God already knows our thoughts, and he knows what we need better than we do. When you pray, don’t hold back. Be honest. God will hear you and he will answer you in the way he knows best.

PRAYER WARRIORS

LARGE GROUP GAME

TOWEL-A-PULT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Three giant beach towels
A kickball or beach ball

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three teams of two. Hand each team a beach towel. Each team will get one chance to step up to the front of the stage and, working together, launch the kickball/ beach ball into the audience as far as they can using the beach towel as a launcher. The team that sends the ball the furthest into the crowd is the winner.

VARIATION:

A beach ball won't fly as far as a kickball, but a beach ball is less likely to cause injury. Use discretion when choosing what ball to launch. If time allows, give each team two throws.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

You can't hold back if you want to win this game. Don't hold back when you pray; be honest, and let God know what you are thinking.

PRAYER WARRIORS

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Be honest with God when you pray.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to be honest and direct when they pray for what they need.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 1:1-20, Hannah Prays For a Son

INTRO

When you want something from your parents, how do you ask them for it?

When you were young, you most likely came right out and said what you wanted. “I want a cookie!” “I want milk!” “I want that toy!” “Give it to me!” “Mine! Mine!” Babies and toddlers have their faults, but let’s face it, they’re good communicators. They don’t hold back. They tell you exactly what they want.

As you get older, your requests get a little more subtle. You’ve been told, over and over, “Don’t ask for things,” so you have to be a little more slick. You see a commercial for a cool toy and you say to your Dad, “Gee, that sure looks cool. You know a friend of mine got one for his birthday, and he said it was really awesome.”

Some kids go through the Toys R Us catalog at Christmas time, circling the toys they want and leaving the catalog for Mom and Dad to find. If you have siblings, it’s important to initial those ads. Especially if there are boys and girls in the house. You wouldn’t want to circle a Power Rangers Power Zord and unwrap a Barbie Dream House!

Kids are great at hinting around, leading their parents along, getting them to give them what they want without ever asking. At least they think they are. Adults are just as adept if not more.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Matter of fact, when you're hinting around at Mom and Dad, trying to get your way, odds are they not only know what you're up to, they're working you in the exact same way to convince you that no, you don't want McDonalds right now; you want last night's left-overs.

Jesus said that anyone who came to him needed to come like a child, with a child-like faith. And guess what? That's also how he wants us to pray. Today, we're going to read about a woman who held nothing back in her prayers and saw her impossible request granted. Her name was Hannah.

READ 1 SAMUEL 1:1-20 (*leaders note: you may want to paraphrase verses 5-6 and verse 19 for your children*)

MAIN POINT

Hannah was a woman who was very loved and very troubled. Her husband, Elkanah, adored her and it didn't matter to him that she could not have children. Yet Hannah wanted children more than anything. She went to the temple and she begged God to hear her prayer.

Hannah didn't hold anything back. She told God what she wanted, and she told God what she would do if he gave her a child. God heard her request and he answered her. He gave her a son, and she named him Samuel. Samuel then grew up in the temple and became a prophet. He was be one of the greatest leaders in Israel's history.

Whatever your need may be, God wants you to take your requests to him. Like Hannah we need to be honest, direct, and hold nothing back!

DRIVE IT HOME

Why is it so important that we pray for what we need? God already knows what we need, right? So why do we even have to ask?

The purpose of prayer isn't to get stuff or get God to do things for us. Prayer is so we can grow closer to God. The more we pray, the more we get to know God. The more we know God, the more we see things from his point of view.

Sometimes through prayer, God shows us that what we thought we needed isn't what we really need. He shows us he has a better way, and he answers the prayer the way he knows is best. If God doesn't answer your prayer the way you hoped, he will show you why. He will work all things out for our good, and he will never leave us hanging.

God also wants us to ask so we will know, without a doubt, who made our requests happen. It is God's pleasure to give us what we need, and when he does, we need to praise him and thank him, just like we talked about two weeks ago.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

There's no point hinting around with God. He knows what we're going to ask. He's waiting for us to ask. Ask, Jesus said, and you will receive. And if you don't receive what you were expecting, he'll show you why.

Don't hold back with God. Tell him what you need, openly and honestly. He's waiting to hear from you.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We know you know our needs before we ask, and we ask you to help us be honest and open when we pray.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

When you want something from your parents, do you ask Mom or Dad first?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Read the memory verse aloud for each kid. Each time you do, leave out one word. See if the kids can tell you what word you left out.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids freeze in still-frame poses, re-enacting parts of today's story. Read part of the story, then have them pose as the characters from the story in that moment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20 (*leaders note: you may want to paraphrase verses 5-6 and verse 19 for your children*)

Who was Elkanah?

Why was Elkanah's wife, Hannah, sad?

What did Hannah pray for?

What did Eli tell Hannah when he heard her prayer?

What did God do for Hannah?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Hear our requests when we pray, and answer them according to your wisdom.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

When you want something from your parents, do you ask Mom or Dad first?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Read the memory verse aloud for each kid. Each time you do, leave out one word. See if the kids can tell you what word you left out.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids act out today's story in a skit they create.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20 (*leaders note: you may want to paraphrase verses 5-6 and verse 19 for your children*)

What did Hannah pray for?

What did God do for Hannah?

How does God want us to pray?

Why do we need to be direct with God?

Why might God answer a prayer in a way we didn't ask for?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Hear our requests when we pray, and answer them according to your wisdom.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

PRAYER WARRIORS

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

True or False.

Elkanah's wife, Peninnah, could not have children.

FALSE

Peninnah was mean to Hannah, teasing her because she could not have children.

TRUE

Hannah did not ask God for a baby.

FALSE

Hannah promised to dedicate her child to the Lord.

TRUE

God doesn't want to hear our requests and needs spoken directly.

FALSE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PRAY HONESTLY



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
When Hannah prayed for a son, she didn't hold back her pain and fear. Kids will learn that when they talk to God they should be honest and hold nothing back. 1 Samuel 1:1-20, Hannah Prays For a Son



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
When the kids ask for something, take a moment to discuss how they asked (or hinted) for what they wanted. Why did they ask the way they did? How do they need to ask God for the things they need?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did Hannah pray for?
- How did Hannah pray?
- Why do we need to be honest about what we want when we pray to God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Encourage your kids to be honest and direct with you, as well as with God. Teach them to be in the habit of being honest and forthright so that God will hear their requests and speak to them in return.

PRAYER

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