Samuel

“The Faith of Hannah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The story of Hannah’s faith
* The story of the Ark, the Philistines and Samuel
* The story of Israel’s desire for a king
* The story of the witch of Endor

Series Theme Verse: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” – Hebrews 11:1

Lesson Objective: For students to understand the story of Hannah’s faith and examine their own faith, using Hannah’s example and Hebrews 11:1 as a guide.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 1:1-20, 26-28

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

* What is the name of the man we meet at the first of this story? (Elkanah)
* Was Elkanah married? (Yes, he had two wives)
  + Be prepared for the question of why two wives was okay.
* What were the names of his wives? (Hannah and Peninnah)
* Did Elkanah have children with both wives? (Peninnah had given him children, but Hannah was barren, or could not have children)
* Was Elkanah a faithful worshipper of God? (Yes, he went yearly to sacrifice in the temple)
* From the sacrifice, how did Elkanah divide the meat with his wives? (He would give Hannah a double portion)
* Why? (Because he loved her and she was barren)
* Put yourself in Elkanah’s shoes, why would you show favoritism for Hannah?
* Put yourself in Peninnah’s shoes, how would this make you feel?
* How is Peninnah described? (As a rival to Hannah, provoking Hannah to tears and refusal to eat)
* How did Elkanah respond when Hannah would cry and refuse to eat? (Why cry? Aren’t I more important to you than having sons?)
* After visiting the temple and eating one day, what did Hannah do? (She prayed and made a vow to the Lord)
* What was the vow? (Lord, give me a son and I will give him to you)
* What is the point of vowing not to let a razor touch his head? (Like Samson, she was dedicating her son to be a Nazarite)
* Eli was the high priest of Shiloh, what did he think when he saw Hannah praying? (She was drunk)
* Why? (She was praying in her heart, but her lips were moving with no words coming out)
* What did Eli say to Hannah? (Don’t drink, sober up!)
* What did Hannah say to Eli? (I am not drunk, I am deeply troubled and I am pouring my soul out to God)
* Did that satisfy Eli? (Yes, he told her to go in peace and blessed her that God would give her what she had asked for)
* As a result of this experience, was Hannah still crying and refusing to eat? (No, she ate and was no longer distressed)
* What did the family do before leaving for home? (They worshipped)
* Did the Lord respond to Hannah? (Yes, she became pregnant and gave birth to a son)
* What was the son named? (Samuel, “Heard by God”)
* Did Hannah make good on her vow? (Yes, after Samuel was weaned, Hannah took him to Shiloh and gave him to Eli, reminding him of the vow she had made when he had seen her so long ago and accused her of being drunk)
* As Samuel grew, away from his family, what did he do? (Worshiped the Lord)

The Story Retold:

* Hannah’s story is a story of faith, but faith is a Christian word we throw around and sometimes never define, so it becomes meaningless.
* Take a moment and each of you write down your own definition of faith.
* Now, pair up and together create a definition of faith.
* Now group students into two groups and have them develop a definition of faith.
* Take the two definitions of faith and write them on a white board.
* Look at the similarities and draw out some of the key elements of faith from the definitions.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Explain to students that the author of Hebrews is giving us a definition of faith that looks a lot like what Hannah was living out in our story today.
  + Ask what they see as the key elements or words of faith in Hebrews 11:1.
  + How close did their definitions get to the Hebrews definition?
  + Ask students to give examples from the story of how this verse is like the story of Hannah we talked about today.
* Give students an example of how you have lived out faith in God, even when the situation seemed hopeless.
* Say the verse in groups (boys, girls, white shoes, etc) to begin memorizing the verse.