

October Faith @ Home box

Use Spirit & Truth Narrative Lectionary guides

Promises of Passover, Golden Calf, Hannah Promises Samuel to God, God's Promise to David

October boxes

Print:

<https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-iJ37r8BL1Yc/UQdiCzhWeNI/AAAAAAAAAMQA/yOrEbbI5meM/s1600/Ten+Commandments+Gold+Calf+Template+Cutout+thou+shalt+not+make+for+yourself+a+graven+image+2.jpg>

Week 2 - Second Chance

Week 3 – Musical notes, songs of praise

Week 4 – God's promise to David, Design A Church Activity Sheet,

Supply list:

Grape juice, parsley sprigs, horseradish or romaine lettuce, matzah, paper plates

16 index cards 6 + Colored index cards numbered 1-10

Duct tape (black, red, white)

play dough

2 Wooden Clothes Pins, Yellow Crayon

Construction paper 1 + red + 2 bright colors + 1 brown, orange, green, yellow 8 total
plain white paper,

Graph paper

Week 1 Reading – Exodus 12:1-13 & 13:1-8

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb[a] for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Consecration of the Firstborn

The Lord said to Moses, “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’

October Faith @ Home box
Promises Made, Promises Broken II – Exodus & Samuel
From Spirit and Truth Publishing

Week 1: The Promise of Passover – Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

Activity #1 – The Passover Meal

Supplies: Grape juice, parsley sprigs, horseradish or romaine lettuce, salt water, matzah, paper plates, and cups.

Read the story (attached)

The Israelites were told to always remember the time when God set them free from slavery. The Jewish people celebrate the Passover with a special meal as part of remembering. Christians do not celebrate Passover. Today we are going to learn a little about the Jewish custom, not practice it.

We are going to see some of the foods eaten at Passover to get an idea of how many Jews remember the Passover.

Share each of the items as you describe the representation.

The grape juice represents the way that the Israelites were set free. Jewish people take a sip of the juice to remember this.

Dip the parsley in the salt water. This represents the tears shed when the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians. Jewish people eat the salty parsley to remember the tears.

The matzah represents the unleavened bread. Many Jews get rid of anything that has yeast in it from their homes eat unleavened bread at Passover. Matzah is unleavened.

The lettuce, or bitter herb, represents the bitter times spent in Egypt.

This was an example of the special meal many Jews eat to celebrate the Passover. We do not celebrate Passover. We celebrate Easter, when Jesus set us free from sin. Is there a special meal that your family eats to celebrate Easter?

Activity #2 – The Exodus Story

Supplies: 6 colored index cards, pens or pencils

The exodus story tells of the Israelites leaving captivity in Egypt and heading for the Promised Land. Moses told the people to remember the day when God freed them from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 13:3). In celebration and remembrance of this amazing deliverance, Passover was celebrated and continues to be celebrated by many Jews today. Jesus' death and resurrection was recorded in the New Testament with specific parallels to this Old Testament story. Just as the lamb's blood set the Israelites free from slavery and death, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection set humankind free from slavery to sin and death. Both stories carry the central theme of rescue by a loving God who delivers people from hardship.

At Easter time, we celebrate Jesus making a way for our sins to be forgiven. We can say Jesus set us free or Jesus delivered us from our sin. At Passover, our Jewish friends celebrate when God set the Israelites free from being held captive by the Egyptians. We say that God delivered them from bondage or captivity. After Joseph died, the new Egyptian king was very mean to the Israelites and made them slaves to the Egyptians.

As you read the exodus story, you will make one story card per point. When done, shuffle the cards you made and see who can put their cards in the correct order first.

Story card #1: Design your own card or a suggestion is a crown on a frowning face. God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God sent plagues on the Egyptians, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go. One of these plagues was that the river turned to blood and all the fish and animals that were in it died. Some of the others included the land being covered in frogs, lice, flies, or locusts, and the people being covered with boils, or sores. One plague included a bad thunderstorm where fire came down with the hail.

Story card #2: Design your own card or a suggestion is to draw a bug or a lightning bolt to symbolize the plagues.

Then God gave special instructions to Moses to tell the people to paint lamb's blood around the outside of their front door.

Story card #3: Design your own or a suggestion is to draw a door, a paint brush, or a lamb.

God gave instructions for the people to prepare a special meal and eat in a hurry. Get ready to leave.

Story card #4: Design your own or a suggestion is to draw a dinner plate.

God sent a plague that killed the boy babies in the Egyptian families, but the plague passed over the houses with the lamb's blood around the doors (the Israelites' houses).

Story card #5: Design your own or a suggestion is to draw a sad face with teardrops. The Israelites were able to go free.

Story card #6: Design your own or a suggestion is to draw a smiley face or write the word free in capital letters.

The Passover is a celebration when the Jewish people take time to remember that God set them free or delivered them from the Egyptians. Our God works in history and gives us unique ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance.

Shuffle your cards and put them back in order to tell the exodus story.

Activity #3 – Story Bracelets

Supplies: Duct tape (black, red, white), scissors

Things changed after Joseph died. A new king in Egypt forced the Israelites to serve him. Life for the Israelites was unpleasant at best. Moses was born during this time and was later called to lead God's people out of slavery. Despite nine plagues being sent to motivate Pharaoh (the king) to release the Israelites, Pharaoh held fast. Finally, God told Moses of a tenth plague that would ensure the Israelites' release. We see today that as part of this plan the Israelites held the first Passover meal, a celebration they were to continue throughout the generations in remembrance of their deliverance from Egyptian slavery.

We are going to make bracelets to remind us of the Exodus story. When we wear them, we can remember that our God delivers people. We can share the meaning of our bracelets with others.

Tape two lengths of black duct tape together sticky side to sticky side. Do the same with the red and white tape. Fold each strip in half horizontally.

Braid the three strips, pressing down on the tape after each step.

The colors of the braided bracelets are symbolic and help us remember: black

for slavery (or sin); red for the blood of the lamb on the doors (and Jesus' blood), and white for freedom (also being forgiven, white as snow).

As you braid, each time you fold (or braid) a certain color strip, say aloud what the color means. For example, as I braid in the white, I will say, "white for freedom, being forgiven, white as snow."

When the braiding is done, use duct tape to join and seal the ends.

Activity #4 – Memory Game

Supplies: Colored index cards numbered 1-10

God used Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt after they had lived for years as slaves to the Egyptians. God gave Moses a specific plan for the people to follow on the night of their deliverance. This included eating a specific meal and painting lamb's blood around the doorway. At night, the firstborn of the Egyptian families, including Pharaoh's son, died. While the Egyptians were mourning, the Israelites fled. At last, God delivered the Israelites from slavery. As a reminder of what God did for them, the Israelites were told to celebrate a Passover festival once a year. During this time, they would eat unleavened bread and talk about how death struck the Egyptians but passed over (Passover) the homes with lamb's blood on the door posts.

God gives us ways to remember and celebrate God's deliverance. Passover is still celebrated by many Jews all over the world. There are other days of deliverance in biblical history that we celebrate, most recognizably the birth of Jesus at Christmas and the death and resurrection of Jesus during Holy Week and Easter. Some celebrate the time leading up to Christmas as Advent, and some celebrate the time leading up to Easter as Lent.

Play the Memory Game.

If you are playing with a group, arrange the index cards on the table and make yourself a small map of the layout.

The first person will tap a card. The next person will tap that card and then tap any other. The third person will tap the first card, the second card, and then tap any other. See how far this can go before someone forgets the pattern. While the people are touching cards, one of you will need to keep track (jot it on paper), so you can let them know when the pattern is forgotten.

When someone taps the wrong card, say: Stop! You did a good job remembering, but it looks like you forgot when you reached this card.

Play this a few times.

We have to work hard to keep our memory in shape! There are certain things that we should always remember, like the things that God has done for us.

If you are one person, or if you prefer an online version of this activity, try

<http://www.mindgames.com/game/Simon>.

Activity #5: Worship

Worship is any way we show our love to God. We worship God in many ways and for many reasons. We worship God for being God and for loving us first. We worship God for being all powerful, all knowing, and always present. We worship Jesus as King, Savior, and Lord. We worship God as healer, provider, and guide. As the Israelites

spent years enslaved by the Egyptians, we sometimes spend years in enslaved by fears, habits, or situations. Ask God to set you free. Worship God as your deliverer! The Israelites worshipped God by remembering what God did for them and by setting aside a week to focus on and talk about what God did. It is good to remember what God has done for us.

Take a moment to worship God now by telling stories of what God has done for you. Remember big and small things. Feel free to share any other stories that you can remember from any part of the Bible, too.

How do you feel now after hearing of all of these things that God did? What are your thoughts about God after hearing these stories?

Family Devotions for the Week

Sunday—Read Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

This is the story of Passover. God promised to keep the Israelites safe from the last plague sent to Egypt. God promised to set the Israelites free. Share some crackers to celebrate what God did for the Israelites. Stand together by the table or counter and eat with your coats on.

Monday—Read Exodus 13:17-22

God led the Israelites through the wilderness. God guided them with a pillar of cloud in the day time and a pillar of fire at night. Play follow the leader while the leader holds a pillow. Dim the lights and then follow the leader while the leader holds a flashlight.

Tuesday—Read Exodus 14:5-25

This is the story of crossing the Red Sea. God parted the waters, so the Israelites could escape from the pursuing Egyptians. Fill a tub or sink with water. Try to make a dry path in the middle of the water. Imagine God pushing the water of the sea aside to make a path. (This can be done at bath time or before washing hands so the water is not wasted.)

Wednesday—Read Exodus 16:1-8

The Israelites became hungry on their journey, so God sent them bread. Seal one cracker in each of five small bags and two crackers in a sixth bag. Scatter the bags on the floor. Count out six days, gathering the day's "bread" as you call out each day. Eat the "bread" each "day," but save one piece on the sixth day for the seventh day.

Thursday—Read Exodus 19:1-9, 20-25

The Israelites reached Mount Sinai, and Moses went up the mountain to hear from God. Designate a space in your house as your special "mountain place" where you can pray. Leave a pad and pencil there for requests. Pray together there and know that anyone can meet God there at any time.

Friday—Read Exodus 20:1-17

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Memorize the first commandment by repeating it aloud together (Exodus 20:3).

Saturday—Read Exodus 24:9-18

Moses was on the mountain for forty days and nights. Put on sunglasses. Imagine that God is so bright the sunglasses would not be able to block or shade our eyes from the light.

Week 2: The Golden Calf – Exodus 32:1-14

Activity #1 – Play Dough Idols

Supplies: play dough

Read The Golden Calf

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.” So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’

“I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Grab your play dough.

Make anything that you want out of this play dough.

While you are forming your object, share what you are doing and what you are making.

When done, discuss:

What would you think if it was suggested we worship the objects that you just made with your hands? [Hopefully the suggestion is crazy, these are lifeless objects, we should only worship God.]

Could it be possible that in a way we worship things that humans make? How much time do we devote to and spend loving our technology, video games, sports, and other things? How much time or thought do we give to God from day to day? Could it be that we worship things people make, or things we can see, more than we worship the God who made and gave us everything? Talk about your thoughts on that?

Activity #2: Spiritual Practice

Worship is any way that we show God our love. This might be singing, giving, praying, dancing, or some other creative form. As you prepare to teach this week's lesson, take time to worship God for loving us even when we turn our backs on God. Choose a location where you can be free to express yourself. Sing, pray, dance, play an instrument and exalt the Lord.

Try this:

Worship God in creative silence.

Close your eyes.

Think about God and only God.

In your mind, list words that you can use to describe God, each time saying in your mind, "Thank you, God, that you are..." followed by the word that you think of. If you notice your mind starting to wander, think of another word to describe God.

It is okay to repeat the same words.

Allow a time of silence to do this. Make the time longer than what might be comfortable for yourself. If you are not used to sitting in silence, 5 minutes is a good start. If you are comfortable, then stretch the time.

Now, open your eyes, and without looking at what others are doing, get into a position that you think you would get in if you saw God face to face. There are no right or wrong positions. Quietly do what you think you would do.

When the time of worship is over ask: How did the worship experience go for you?

Did you find it easy or difficult to keep your mind from wandering?

What are some of the words you used during your worship?

Why did you choose the position that you did at the end of the worship time?

Activity #3 – Second Chances

Supplies: Second Chances Activity Sheet (only the leader gets to see this)

The Israelites waited for generations before God freed them from the Egyptians. They learned that it might take time, but God would always come through for them. Still, the Israelites grew impatient when Moses, their leader, was meeting with God. They grew tired of waiting. They worried because they could not see Moses or God. What if God had forgotten about the Israelites? The Israelites asked Aaron to make them gods out of gold. They worshipped a calf statue, praising it for delivering them from the Egyptians. God told Moses what the people had done. God was angry with the Israelites for forgetting their commitment to God. Moses spoke to God on their behalf. He reminded God of how much God loved the Israelites. He reminded God of the promises made to the descendants of Abraham. Although God was very angry at the people for doing wrong, God gave the Israelites another chance to remember the covenant they had made with God.

The Point

Even when we turn away, God remembers God's promises and welcomes us back. If we get sidetracked and drift from God, forgetting our promise of living God's way, we can know that our loving God will always remain faithful to love us, and will welcome us back regardless of our actions.

Decide on one person to be the leader. Only this person should have access to the activity sheet. The leader should take one person aside and instruct them to give an incorrect answer to every question they are asked, even if they know the answer and even if the same question is asked over and over again.

Ask the first person a question. If it is right, award five points and ask the next question to the next person. If it is not right, ask the same question to the next person. When you reach the person that you spoke to in private, ask them the same question over and over. Each time they are wrong, tell them: That is okay. Let me give you another chance.

When they get it wrong five times in a row, tell them you will give them the points for trying.

Now, stop the game and say: How did you feel about this team getting all those chances and getting points even when they had the answers all wrong? I planned this to show you what second chances are like.

Previously, we learned that God loved and protected the Israelites. God delivered them from Egyptian slavery. God led them on their journey. Today we heard that even after all that God did for them, and even after how much they knew God loved them, they still turned their backs on God and disobeyed by worshipping an idol. What they did was wrong. What God did was give them another chance...once again.

When we see people getting another chance, like in the game we just played, we often think it is unfair. We can be thankful that God gives us a second chance, and as many other chances as we need, to turn back to God when we start to wander off.

Activity #4 – Golden Calf Craft

Supplies: Paper Plate, 2 Wooden Clothes Pins, Gold Cow Template, Tape, Yellow Crayon, Scissors

Cut the calf head out along with the two small pieces of paper with words on it. Then color the bottom of the paper plate in yellow. Fold the paper plate in half and put two clothes pins at the bottom for his feet. Color the calf head and tape it to the right side of the paper plate. Then tape the words on the front of cow body.

Talk about:

Rather than use what they knew about God to give them hope, the Israelites thought about what the Egyptians would do. The Egyptians had hundreds of statues of creatures that they worshipped like gods. So the people asked Aaron to make them a "god".

Can people MAKE gods? If you make something, will it live? Will it be more powerful than you?

Aaron crafted a golden calf, which the Israelites then claimed had delivered them from Egypt. Had this calf even been around then? No. Were they obeying God's law at this point? No.

Worse than this, once they made the idol, the Israelites began imitating the way the Egyptians worshipped, with parties, and drinking and feasting. Was this how God wanted to be worshipped? No. They were behaving as they wanted, copying other nations. They had forgotten what they had promised God they would obey in just six weeks.

Did God know what was going on? Yes. God told Moses the people were sinning. He wanted to destroy them and start all over with just Moses. But Moses didn't want God's reputation among the nations to suffer. He pleaded with God to forgive the people. And God changed His mind.

When Moses went down to the people, with the law on two tablets of stone, he heard the singing and saw the carved calf they were honoring. He was so angry he broke the tablets.

He approached Aaron about what happened. Aaron claimed the calf appeared by itself when they threw gold in the fire. Is that possible? No. Aaron was trying to escape responsibility for what he had done.

Moses demanded that the people choose between God and the idol. The people who stood against God were killed. The idol was crushed into powder and Moses made the people drink it. Gold is pretty to look at, but is very bitter to drink.

Sometimes we worship idols; we make things in our lives more important than God. It can be family, it can be sports, or it can be video games. Because all people are born sinful, it is very easy for us to love and worship other things instead of the one true God. Think about what "idol" you might be worshipping. Say this prayer:

Thank you God that I can enjoy _____ (insert your "idol" here).

Help me not to put it before you. Help me to always put you first. Amen

Family Devotions for the Week

Sunday—Read Exodus 32:1-14

The Israelites wondered if Moses would ever come back from his meeting with God. They asked Aaron to make them a god that they can worship. Find a metal or porcelain figurine in the house. Discuss why people should not worship it.

Monday—Read Exodus 32:15-20; 34:1-10

God asked Moses to make new tablets, so God could write the commandments a second time. Have each family member write the numbers one through ten on a piece of paper and rip it up. Repeat with fresh paper, writing the numbers as someone reads aloud the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

Tuesday—Read Deuteronomy 1:19-33

When the Israelites reached the land God had for them, they were afraid to enter. They sent spies to see if the land was a good land. Send a member of the family to the attic or cellar (or garage, closet, etc.). Ask them to report back anything frightening or good that they found.

Wednesday—Read Deuteronomy 1:34-40; 2:1-8

God did not allow those who did not trust God's provision to enter the Promised Land. They wandered in the desert. Go outdoors (if possible) and wander around with no planned direction.

Thursday—Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The Israelites were commanded to love God, teach this command to their children, and write it on their doorposts. Draw hearts. Write "God" on each heart. Hang the hearts on your bedroom doors.

Friday—Read Joshua 1:1-9

After Moses died, God told Joshua to lead the people to the Promised Land. Have an adult member of the family hand a large stick, cane or staff to the oldest child. Lay hands on the child's head and say, "You will be a family leader someday."

Saturday—Read Joshua 23:1-15

Joshua told the Israelites to have the courage to obey God. Beware of the things that might lead you to disobey. Everyone (including parents) share a time when it is hard work to obey God.

Week 3 – Hannah Promises Samuel to God – 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20 and 2:1-10

Activity #1 – Hannah’s Song

Supplies: Musical Notes, scissors, pencil, crayons, glue, construction paper

Read the story

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, “Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

1 Samuel 2:1-10 - Hannah’s Prayer

Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high.

My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.

“There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.”

“The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more.

She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

“The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.

The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.

“For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s; on them he has set the world.

He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.

“It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken.

The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.

“He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

Find the Hannah’s Song Activity Sheet.

You will work together to solve the puzzle. Find the answers and then write the answer on a music note. Cut out the musical notes and glue them onto the construction paper.

You can decorate any way you would like.

There are five questions, and each answer is one of the many attributes of God that Hannah speaks of in her prayer song.

In 1 Samuel 2:1-4, Hannah prayed and said,

1. The Lord is the [Holy] One.

2. There is no [Rock] like our God.
3. The Lord is a God of [knowledge].
4. The Lord [weighs] actions.
5. The Lord brings [life].

Activity #2: - Songs of Praise

Supplies: Bible, Songs of Praise Activity Sheet, Pencil

Hannah Promises Samuel to God

Hannah desperately wanted a son. In the society where she lived, women without children were seen as having little value. Year after year Hannah went to the temple and prayed for a son. Hannah promised that if God gave her a son, she would dedicate him to God's service. God heard Hannah's prayers and blessed Hannah with a son who would play an important role in biblical history. Hannah worshipped and praised God for hearing her prayer and blessing her with a child.

Her song of praise parallels that of Mary when she was told she was carrying the Messiah.

The Point

God hears the prayers of everyone. We may get caught up in the details of our own lives and forget that the needs of others go beyond our circle of friends. God does not forget others or their needs. Every person is important to God from the most popular to the unknown.

Worship is any way that we show God our love. This might be singing, giving, praying, dancing, or some other creative form of expressing our love for God to God. In 1 Samuel 2:1-10, we read Hannah's worshipful prayer that reads like a song.

Using Hannah's prayer song as a model, write your own songs of praise to God. We will read your prayer songs as a form of worship. Do not worry. You do not have to be a songwriter to do this, focus on writing from your heart.

Open your Bibles to 1 Samuel 2:10. You can review these verses if you want to see an example. You are welcome to modernize yours.

Use the prompts on the Songs of Praise Activity Sheet to help you write your prayer song. Your song can be the answers to the questions, one after the next, or you can add more words along with the answers to write your prayer song.

When you are done, share your prayer songs in a time of worship. If someone does not want to read, you can read.

Activity #3 – Read and Discuss

There was once a woman who was lonely and sad even though she had a husband who loved her dearly. The problem was that she had no children. In those days, some men had more than one wife. Hannah's husband Elkanah had two wives, but he loved her the most. She felt like she was letting him down by not giving him a son. The other wife, Peninnah, had a number of sons and daughters. Peninnah teased Hannah for not having children. Hannah felt ashamed. She felt worthless to her husband and her family. She felt lowly in her community. It was important to Hannah that she have a son. Hannah prayed year after year for God to give her a child. She felt deep sorrow for a long, long time. Her husband asked why she would not eat and why she wept. One day Eli the priest saw Hannah praying silently at the tabernacle. He thought she was drunk

because her mouth was moving, but he could not hear the words. Hannah told him why she was so sad. Hannah prayed a promise to God. She promised that if God gave her a son, she would give the son back to God by dedicating her child to the Lord's service.

The priest said, "May God answer your prayers."

God heard Hannah's prayers. God blessed Hannah with a son, and Hannah rejoiced. God had not forgotten Hannah. God saw her sorrow. God answered her prayer. Hannah kept her promise and dedicated her son Samuel to God's service.

Discuss:

Why would someone who wanted a baby so much promise to give her baby to God? [It would be an honor to glorify God for blessing her.]

What does that tell us about Hannah's trust in God and love for God? [Hannah trusted God to answer her prayers; Hannah trusted her son's life to God's care.]

What does God's response tell us about God's love for Hannah, an ordinary woman who was seen by others as lowly for not having had children? [God cares and loves everyone, regardless of their difficulties in life.]

How might this story of sorrow to joy sound if the situation was happening today? For example, how might this story sound if the person praying was a child in an orphanage or in foster care? [Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of story.]

What if this was a story of a person who was separated from the rest of the family for some reason? [Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of the story.]

What if this story was about a child living in poverty? [Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of the story.]

What if this story was about parents who were out of work? [Accept all answers and encourage everyone to contribute to the details of the story.]

God cares about all people today just as much as God cared about Hannah many years ago. God hears everyone's prayers. Everyone is valued by God.

Activity #4 – God Hears Our Prayers

Supplies: red construction paper, scissors, pens, plain white paper, markers, tape, colorful paper, music (optional)

Think about something you really, really want for your next birthday. Explain whether you think it's okay to ask God for that gift.

Today we're going to learn that God hears our prayers. That doesn't mean we can treat God like a vending machine. Prayer isn't about just making a wish list and expecting God to give us everything we want. But it's okay to talk to God about what we want.

We're going to learn from the Bible about how a woman named Hannah prayed.

Hannah really wanted a son, but she didn't have one. In Bible times, men sometimes had more than one wife. Hannah's husband was also married to a woman named Peninnah, who did have children. Here's how Peninnah treated Hannah.

Read 1 Samuel 1:6.

Tell about a time someone made fun of you. It hurts when people make fun of us. But this was especially hurtful to Hannah because it hit a sore spot. Hannah really wanted a baby. Hannah's desire for a baby was different from the things we said we'd want for our birthdays. This was a deep desire of her heart, so she prayed to God for a baby.

Read 1 Samuel 1:10-11.

Grab the red construction paper, scissors, and pens. Cut out a heart, and then think about your heart's desire. Remember, this is different from wanting a video game or a new phone. Hannah was really hurting because she wanted a baby so badly. Think about it this way: What would you ask God to change about your family, friendships, or even yourself? What really makes your heart hurt? Write or draw on your heart what you would ask God. No one else will see it; this is between you and God.

Pray: God, we can't see the desires on these paper hearts. But you see them, just as you see inside our human hearts. We ask that you'll hear our prayers and satisfy our hearts' desires. In Jesus' name, amen.

God hears our prayers. He sees our hearts' desires, and he hears when we ask him for help. And he heard Hannah's prayer. This is what happened.

Read 1 Samuel 1:20.

Although this verse doesn't use the word thanks, Hannah named her baby based on the fact that he was an answer to prayer. She showed a thankful attitude. Let's give thanks to God, too.

Think of things you want to thank God for, and use each letter of the alphabet to come up with a list. The first person will say something to be thankful for that starts with A, the next person will say something that starts with B, and so on. If you want, you can skip the really hard letters like Q, X, and Z.

After you've gone through the alphabet, put your hands in the middle of the circle like a sports team and say "Thank you, God!"

We talked about asking God for things, but we can give to God, too. That's what Hannah did next. She remembered her promise to God, and she was thankful that God heard her prayer. She took Samuel to the Tabernacle to give him to God.

Read 1 Samuel 1:27-28.

Grab a new piece of plain white paper, and markers and tape to share.

Think about a gift you could give God. A good gift is something that is a little hard to give up. Maybe it's giving some of your time or helping your brother or sister when you don't feel like it. Write or draw your gift on your paper. Then decorate the other side of your paper to look like wrapping paper. Fold it up, and tape it together like a gift.

Hannah can teach us one more kind of prayer.

Reread 1 Samuel 1:28, emphasizing the last sentence.

Grab colorful paper, and cut out strips of paper about 1-inch-tall and 4 inches wide.

Worship or praise often means telling God things we love about him. For example: I love you, God, because you're... Share your own ending to the sentence.

On your strips of paper, write your endings to the sentence, "I love you, God, because you're..."

After, stand up and throw your papers like confetti while shouting out your praises to God.

Family Devotions for the Week:

Sunday—Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Hannah promised God that if given a son, she would give the son back to God. Find in the house an item of sentimental or monetary value. Give it to a family member. Allow the family member hold it briefly and give it back.

Monday—Read 1 Samuel 3:1-18

God called Samuel to be a prophet. At first Samuel did not realize that it was God's voice calling him because he did not know God yet. Call some friends or family members on the phone. Take turns saying hello and then tell them about Hannah and Samuel without identifying yourself. Do they recognize your voice?

Tuesday—Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22

Even though God is the King of Kings, the Israelites demanded a human king. Samuel warned of the demands a human king might make, but the people still insisted on a king. Take turns sitting in a chair (throne). Tell the family what you will expect from them when you are king of the house.

Wednesday—Read 1 Samuel 9:27; 10:1-9

Samuel poured oil on Saul's head and told him that when God's spirit comes upon him, he will be changed. He will have a new heart that loves and serves God. Make a crown out of paper. Draw a picture of a heart on another paper. Pick one child. Put the crown on the child's head and the heart on the chest. (Repeat for each child.)

Thursday—Read 1 Samuel 13:2-14

Rather than waiting for God to help, when Samuel did not return in the designated time, Saul took matters into his own hands. His disobedience led to the end of his reign. Find a simple snack recipe with limited ingredients. Part of the family will follow the directions while the others do their own thing. Compare the final product.

Friday—Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The young man who others expected to become king was not the one God chose. God knew David's heart and had Samuel anoint young David, the shepherd boy, as king. Take the youngest child in the family, raising the child high up on your shoulders, and march around the room.

Saturday—Read 1 Samuel 24:4-12, 16-20

Even though Saul was out to kill David, when David had the chance he did not harm Saul. Build a cave out of cushions or pillows. One child wearing a robe will rest in the cave. Another will go in with his fists made, but will simply touch the robe and leave.

Week 4 - God's Promise to David - 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Activity #1: Read the Story

Supplies: God's Promise to David Activity Sheet

God's Promise to David

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[b]; your throne will be established forever."

Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

Grab your activity sheet. Imagine that your friend is moving into a new house, and you are going to have a party for them. We call it a housewarming party when we celebrate that someone has a new place to live.

Talk about:

What kinds of gifts should we bring?

What kinds of food should we serve?

Who and how many people should we invite?

What kinds of games or activities should we play?

You probably have planned a fun party. Imagine making all of these plans for this fun party, being excited to do something special for your friend, looking forward to seeing their smiling faces, and then finding out an even bigger surprise. The party you are

planning turns out to be for you and not your friend! You are the one who is getting a new house and a housewarming party! How would you respond?

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-3.

The king is King David. Where was the king living? [In his house.] What was King David's house made of? [Cedar, wood.] Where did he say God or God's glory was? [In a tent.]

If you lived in a nice house and thought that God lived or dwelled in a tent, what would you want to do? [Give God the house, find a better house for God, etc.] Nathan advised David to do as his heart led him. What do you think was in David's heart to do for God? [Build God a house.]

On your Activity Sheet, in the house above David's plans, write "build God a house."

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-11.

What did God plan to do for David? [Make a place for the Israelites; make a house for David.]

On your Activity Sheet, in the house above God's plans, write "build David a house."

Read 2 Samuel 7:16.

This house for David would be much bigger than a physical house. It would be a kingdom, a large area filled with people. David would rule over his kingdom and always be remembered. David had plans to make God a house for now. God had plans to establish a kingdom forever.

On your Activity Sheet, in the house above David's plans, write "for now." In the house above God's plans, write "forever."

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13.

God had plans for David's son to build a temple later. For now, God's presence was going to bless David and be with him, his family, the generations that followed, and his kingdom. God did not need a permanent place to do God's wonders. God did not need a house of wood to show God's glory. God's actions did that. God had a bigger plan at this time. You see, God's promise to David had a lot to do with Jesus coming to earth many years later. Jesus is a descendant of, or in the same family tree, as David. God was in the process of blessing David's family by someday sending Jesus through them to live on the earth.

David wanted to build a house for God out of his love for God. God wanted to build a house for David out of God's love for all of humanity.

On your Activity Sheet, in the house above David's plans, write "love for God." In the house above God's plans, write "love for all."

Circle the house on your Activity Sheet where the plans were greater [God's plans.]

Even though David meant well with his plans and his heart was true, God had something much better planned all along.

Sometimes when our well-meant plans do not work out or fall through, it is because God has better plans in store for us and others, too.

Activity #2: Design A Church

Supplies: Design A Church Activity Sheet, Graph paper, Rulers, Scissors, Pens or pencils

Hannah kept her promise to God and dedicated her son Samuel to the LORD's service. As a prophet, Samuel followed God's leading. When the Israelites demanded a king—

rejecting God's promise to be their King—Samuel warned them of what this could mean. Then, he anointed Saul as king over Israel. After Saul broke his promise and disobeyed God, Samuel anointed David as king. Today we will hear a promise that God made to King David.

When the Israelites were traveling for many years, they carried a tent as God's dwelling place. They set it up and took it down over and over. Now that they were in one place they were still using the tent to honor God. King David was concerned that he lived in a nice house of wood, but that the people continued to use a tent where God's Spirit could dwell. David wanted to make something nicer; a real house and more permanent place to glorify God. God sent a message to David through the prophet Nathan: the tent is fine. A house of wood is not necessary for God to be present or to be glorified. Instead, God promised to make a house (dynasty) for David. His family will always be rulers over Israel, and in them God would be glorified. This promise reminds us of the promise to Abram, and is fulfilled when we see that David is a part of Jesus' family tree. God also said that David's son would build a temple for God someday, which is what King Solomon did years later.

Grab your Design a Church Activity Sheet, graph paper, and other supplies.

You are going to design a sanctuary or house of worship just for kids to worship God.

What would you put in it? Where would you put each item?

You do not need to be an artist to do this. You can trace shapes and label each shape with a word like "chair" or "couch". Cut out the shapes that you want to trace.

After the sanctuaries or houses of worship are designed, share your design with us and explain why you put certain things where you did.

Imagine how much greater the blessing and plans are that God has for us. God wants to dwell in our hearts. It is nice that we honor God with a special place, but it is even nicer that God gives us so much more by being with us all the time and not just in a church building.

Activity #3: Blessed to Be a Blessing

Supplies: Fall-colored Construction Paper, Pencil, Marker, Scissors

We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try. In Isaiah 55:9, we read that God's ways are higher than ours. God knows the big picture and the best thing to do. God knows that we can bless others with the blessings we are given, and God can be glorified through what God does for us. We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try.

What are you doing to help someone else? Believe it or not, being intentional to make a difference in others' lives is evidence of your love for God. The cycle of love that pours into your life is not complete until it's pouring out of you to meet other people's needs. If love has no action to back it up, then it becomes empty words with no power. God proved His love for us by giving His only Son to die for our sins, and we can prove our love for Him by letting Him work through us to feed His lambs—to help hurting people. Don't wait to feel like being a blessing—start doing it on purpose. Maybe you have an elderly neighbor who needs help taking care of their yard. Maybe you have a friend who's going through a tough time right now and would love to hear from you. Or maybe you know a single mom who could really use a meal. Whoever it is, I guarantee you

there's someone in your path that you can bless today, even if it's in a seemingly small way. As you take steps to make their day better, it will add joy to your life!

Pray: Father, please show me who You want me to be kind to today, and how I can make their day better. Thank You for Your love, and for helping me share Your love with the people around me today. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Grab your supplies.

Cut a tree shape out of the brown construction paper.

Have everyone choose a color of construction paper and trace their hands onto it.

After you cut out your hands, write your blessings on the palm and write how you can use those blessings for others on the fingers. For my non-readers, I write their blessings for them as they name them. For my new readers, I write out the words on a piece of paper for them to copy.

Then, tape them to the tree to look like autumn leaves.

Family Devotions

Sunday—Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

God made a promise that David's kingdom would last forever. Unwind a skein of yarn and roll it into a ball. It may feel like it takes forever to do, but it is a short time compared to forever. Or suck on a piece of candy without chewing it. It may last longer, but not forever.

Monday—Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Nathan told David a story about a rich man who took what belonged to a poor man. He did this to make David admit his own sin. Tell stories about things each family member has done, but use different names. Can you guess who the stories were about? (Use positive stories.)

Tuesday—Read 1 Kings 1:32-40

When King David sent Nathan and Zadok the priest to anoint David's son Solomon as king, the people rejoiced. As each family member shares something they feel good about having done, the rest of the family will clap.

Wednesday—Read 1 Kings 3:3-14

Rather than asking for things for himself, Solomon asked God for wisdom and understanding. Pray as a family and ask God to show you how you can serve God better by understanding and serving others.

Thursday—Read 1 Kings 6:1; 8:14-21

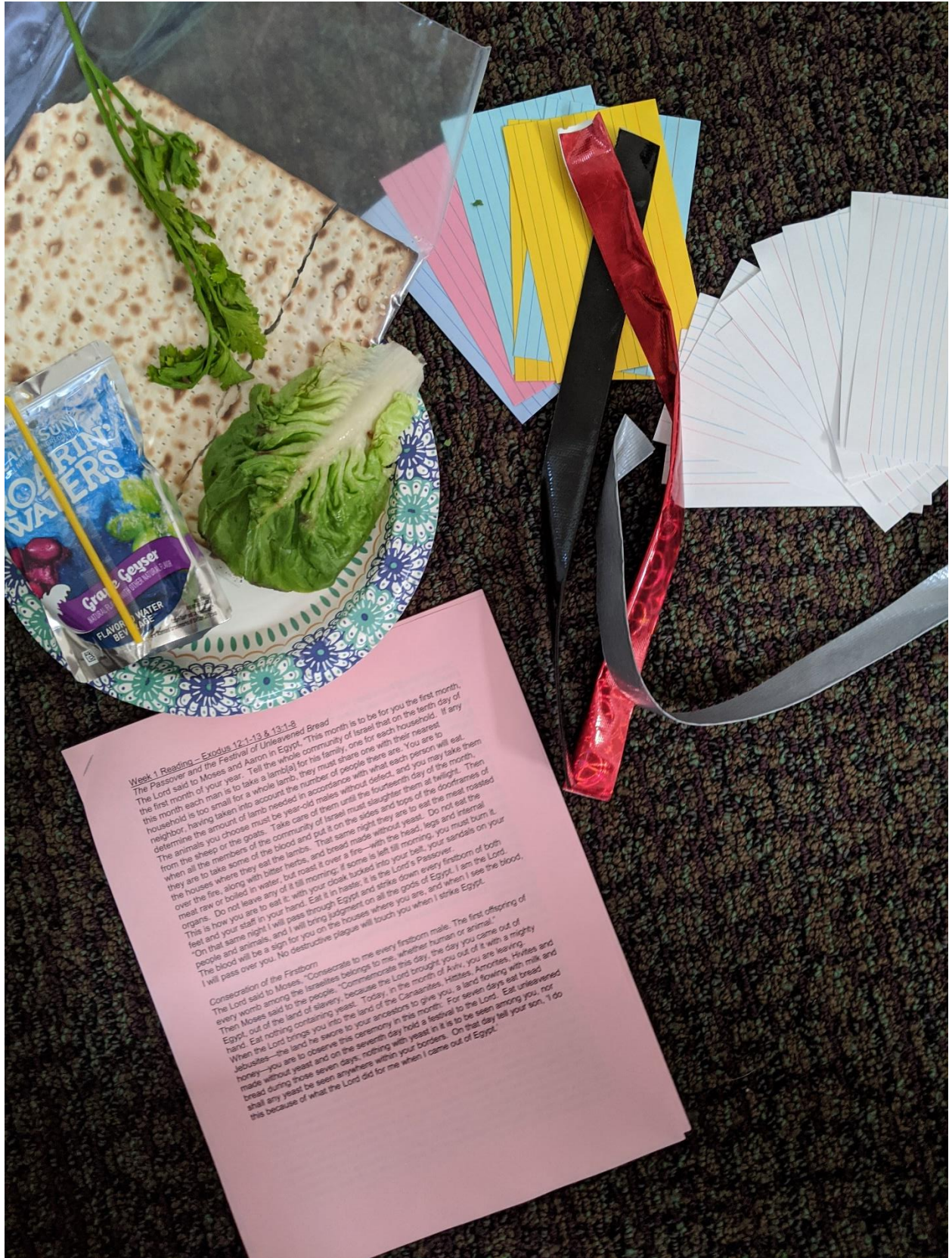
Just as God promised, David's son Solomon built God's temple. It was big and beautiful. Use a deck of cards, building blocks, or cushions and pillows to build a structure. Arrange some jewelry around it. Take a photo of the family with the structure.

Friday—Read 1 Kings 12:1-15

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam reigned. Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders. Parents will share a time when they were young and rejected the advice of their parents and tell of the lessons that they learned from that.

Saturday—Read 1 Kings 12:16-24

The ten tribes of Israel revolted against the king. Join hands tightly in a circle. Choose two family members to unclasp hands and break the circle, each one walking in a different direction.



Week 1 Reading - Exodus 12:1-13 & 13:1-8
 The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread
 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month of the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the members of the community or put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lamb. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt."

Consecration of the Firstborn
 The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal." Then Moses said to the people, "Consecrate this day the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. Today in the month of Aviv, you are leaving Egypt. Eat nothing brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month. For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

October 16, 2020

Week 3-Activity 2

Songs of Praise

Songs of praise are written and used in worship.

Questions to Help you Write	Your Song of Praise
What does your heart rejoice in?	
How do you describe God?	
What are your feelings toward God?	
What has God done for you?	
What will you count on God to do for you?	
What are some praise words?	
What can you say to thank God?	

15

Week 3-Activity 1

There is No Holy One Like

Identify the characteristics of God in Hannah's prayer.

In 1 Samuel 2:1-4, Hannah prayed and said,
 The Lord is the _____ One,
 There is no _____ like our God.
 The Lord is a God of _____ actions.
 The Lord brings _____.

© 2011, 2019 Love and Truth Publishing—All Rights Reserved

Week 3 - Hannah Promises Samuel to God - 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20 and 2:1-10
Activity #1 - Hannah's Song
 Supplies: Musical Notes, scissors, pencil, crayons, glue, construction paper

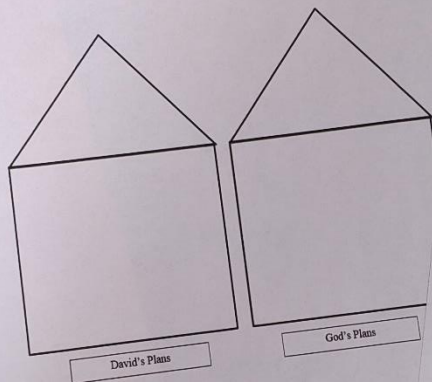
Read the story
 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20
 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."
 19 Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elianah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."
 1 Samuel 2:1-10 - Hannah's Prayer
 Then Hannah prayed and said: My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is filled high.
 "There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.
 "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is our God; he who knows, and by him deeds are weighed."
 "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who were hungry are filled with food; those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who have had many sons pine away.
 "The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises them up.
 "The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.
 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.
 "For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; on them he has set the world.
 He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.
 "It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken.
 The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.
 He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."
 Find the Hannah's Song Activity Sheet.
 You can decorate any way you would like.
 There are five questions, and each answer is one of the many attributes of God that Hannah speaks of in her prayer.
 In 1 Samuel 2:1-4, Hannah prayed and said,
 1. The Lord is the (Holy) One.

Week 4, Activity 1

October 25, 2020

God's Promise to David

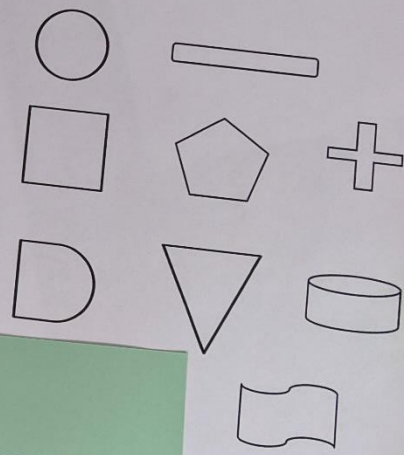
A surprising twist to the housewarming party.



Week 4 - Activity 2

Design a Church

A church is designed for students to worship God.



Week 4 - God's Promise to David - 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Activity #1: Read the Story

Supplies: God's Promise to David Activity Sheet

God's Promise to David

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'"

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress appointed leaders[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.'

"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom on him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation. Grab your activity sheet. Imagine that your friend is moving into a new house, and you are going to have a party for them. We call it a housewarming party when we celebrate that someone has a new place to live.

Talk about:
What kinds of gifts should we bring?
What kinds of food should we serve?
Who and how many people should we invite?
What kinds of games or activities should we play?
You probably have planned a fun party. Imagine making all of these plans for this fun party, being excited to do something special for your friend, looking forward to seeing their smiling faces, and then finding out an even bigger surprise. The party you are