



Gospel Light[®]



POINT KIDS TO JESUS
IN EVERY BIBLE LESSON

Discover the Gospel Light difference.

Gospel Light curriculum is built to help you guide babies through preteens to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is through relational connection, Bible teaching, and a central focus on the gospel.

Help children build strong foundations with age-appropriate lessons as they journey through the Bible 5 times from preschool to preteen. Plus, with teacher training, you can turn every volunteer into an expert.

Try Gospel Light in your church!

AGES

Nursery to Preteen

FORMAT

Age-graded classroom setting
Elementary large group

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Nursery, Preschool & Preteen:
2 Years
Elementary: 4 Years

LESSON TIME

2 hours

Download free lessons and
explore every age level at
GospelLight.com

Preschool, Pre-K & K lessons invite your youngest kids to explore who God is.

PLAY AND LEARN Engage kids through active games, art, and dramatic play.

LISTEN TO LEARN Guide kids to hear and understand the Bible story and Bible verse. This section includes a Scripture, song, prayer, and puppet time.

TALK TO LEARN Help kids continue exploring the Bible through discussion and activities that reinforce the lesson.

Elementary lessons support kids in learning more about who God is and His Word.

GET THINKING Engage kids with fun activities and invite them to think about that day's Big idea!

GET GOD'S WORD Draw kids into God's Word with fun storytelling ideas and encourage participation.

GET TALKING Help kids discover how they can apply the Bible to their lives through discussion, energetic games, and cool art activities to keep kids interacting with each other and with God!

Preteen lessons encourage kids to dig deeper into God's Word together.

SMALL GROUP DISCOVER Support preteens in building relationships with one another through fun, engaging activities.

LARGE GROUP STUDY Guide preteens to dig deeper into God's Word by actively reading, exploring, and experiencing it together.

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION Encourage students to focus on putting the Bible truths they have learned into every day practice.



1 Samuel 1:1-20

Teach the Bible one book at a time

A Mother's Prayer

Inspire your teachers with an invitation

A foundational truth is the main point of the lesson

Dear Teacher,

When hard things happen in my life, I'm quick to see a solution—and start praying for my great idea to take place! But I've noticed that God tends to shake His head at my little plans and then do what He knows is right!

Trusting God's help is not praying for and expecting God to do what WE want Him to do. Trusting God is praying for and expecting God to do what HE promises—to help us, be with us, love us and to work all things together for good. And while we wait for God's answers, we demonstrate our trust by following His commands. Maybe things won't work out the way we planned, but we know that God is faithful and has the power to do what is best. And that gives us comfort!

So no matter what the situation, we can say, "You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me."



Debbie Barber
Associate Managing Editor

Big Idea

I can pray and trust God to help me.

Action Plan

Talk about times to ask for God's help and then trust Him.

Weekly opportunities for students to put the lesson into action

Bible Verse

"You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me."
Psalm 86:17

Guide the teacher to see how each lesson points to Jesus

Connecting You to Jesus



In Hannah's simple and trusting prayer, she asked God for a son whom she could dedicate to God's service. And in Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving when she presented her son to serve at the Tabernacle, she prophetically made the first mention in the Bible of the King, the Anointed One God promised to send. Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of Hannah's prayer, taught us to pray, trusting God as our Heavenly Father.

Encourage deeper spiritual growth with these bonus options!

Fall • Lesson 1

LESSON MATERIALS



- The basics (see contents)
- Teddy bear
- Get Thinking—balloons
- Materials for Art or Game activity (see pp. 14-15)

Easy-to-prep supplies for every lesson

Downloadable Lesson Extras!

1. Help your kids learn the order of books in the Bible by playing Line Up the Books. Use the first 10 books of the Old Testament for this lesson.



2. Students discover more about the divisions of the Old Testament by completing "Swimming Divisions" puzzle.



Get kids excited with an intro activity on the Big Idea

Get Thinking

(10-15 minutes)

Welcome students and help them begin to think about today's Big Idea.

Pop Goes the Problem!

Give each student a balloon. Students blow up and tie balloons. Then students use permanent markers to write short descriptions of problems kids might have. Students tap balloons to another person and read aloud what is written on the balloon they receive. Students pop balloons. (Optional: Students cut neck of balloon with scissors to avoid making a popping sound.)

Build relationships using simple discussion questions



Big Idea

I can pray and trust God to help me.

YOU NEED

Balloons, permanent markers.

Connect:

➤ What are some unhelpful things that people might do when they have a problem?

➤ What are some things that might be helpful to do when someone has a problem? (Ask for help. Talk about it with someone you trust.)

➤ Today we are talking about really great things to do when we have problems, no matter what the problem is!



Engage kids
right from the
start

Fall • Lesson 1

Get God's Word



(15-25 minutes)

Build
Biblical literacy
through hearing
and seeing
God's Word

A Mother's Prayer

Help students find 1 Samuel 1 in their Bibles. Tell the following story summary in your own words, guiding students to find answers in their Bibles.

Story Starter

Invite three or more volunteers to stand in front of the group and take turns laughing in different ways. Challenge volunteers to try and make other students join in and laugh as well. **Most of the time, laughing is really fun! But in our story today, we'll find out about someone who laughed AT someone else and made her very sad.**

YOU NEED

Bible for yourself and each student, Lesson 1 Poster, teddy bear.

Look for
bold text to
guide your
conversation

Invite kids to
get involved in
the story

STORYTELLING IDEA



Assign volunteers to pantomime actions of people in the story (Elkanah, Peninnah, Hannah, Eli). Volunteers act as directed throughout story.

The Other Wife

Many years ago, in the days of the judges, lived a family made up of one man, two wives and some children. Elkanah was the man. **Elkanah waves.** Peninnah was one wife—and she was the mother of all of the children. **Peninnah smiles.** The other wife, Hannah, had no children at all. **Hannah frowns.**

In those days, having children was VERY important. It was (and still is!) a blessing from God to have a child. But the Bible tells us during this time, God had kept Hannah from having children. He wasn't being mean; He was doing something bigger than Hannah ever could have imagined. And the perfect time had not yet arrived!

So year after year, Hannah waited. And year after year, the whole family would go to Shiloh to worship God at the Tabernacle. **Elkanah, Peninnah and Hannah walk across the room.** This was kind of like Thanksgiving vacation. Everyone came to of-

fer sacrifices to the Lord, feast and visit. It was a time of big celebration! And when Elkanah would serve up the meat for the feast, he always gave twice as much to Hannah as he did to Peninnah, because he loved her and he felt sad that she had no children. **Elkanah pretends to give big plate of food to Hannah.**

But even while they were celebrating, other things happened! **Read 1 Samuel 1:6-7 to find out what else happened.** **Peninnah points at Hannah and laughs.** The Bible describes Peninnah as Hannah's rival—a person who is always competing, always rubbing it in when they win. Peninnah must have said some pretty hurtful things—in fact, her words were SO mean that Hannah would weep and weep. She was so sad that she could not eat, not even this very best of food at the festival. **Hannah pretends to cry.**

Elkanah would say to Hannah, "Please! Stop crying and eat! Why are you so sad? Don't I mean more to you than having ten sons?" **Elkanah shrugs shoulders.** But Hannah wanted her own sweet baby and much as she loved Elkanah, her heart was broken!

Visual
sample of
the Bible
storytelling
idea

The Weeping Woman

At one of these festivals, Hannah went into the place of prayer in the Tabernacle.

Hannah walks away from the others. Old

Eli the priest was sitting there by the door post, but she didn't pay any attention to him. **Eli sits nearby.** She wasn't coming to talk to him. She was going to do something else! **Read 1 Samuel 1:10 to find out what she did!** **Hannah kneels down and pretends to pray.** Hannah prayed! She wept and prayed, pouring out all her anger and disappointment and hurt. She let it all out and she didn't care who was listening. This was between her and God!





Help
leaders focus on
what matters

Then Hannah prayed something pretty unusual for a woman who wanted to have her own baby! **Read 1 Samuel 1:11 to find out what Hannah told the Lord.**

Hannah was ready to do whatever God wanted her to do—even if it meant she didn’t get to keep her baby. She promised to give the baby back to the Lord. God could do whatever He wanted with that boy for the rest of his life! And by never cutting his hair, her son would show everyone that he was dedicated to God. (Letting your hair grow showed you had been given to God as a servant.)

TIP

Show Lesson 1 Poster and ask students to tell what they think Eli is going to say or do.

The Blessing of Hope

Eli was still sitting, watching this weeping woman. Her lips were moving, but no sound was coming out. He thought Hannah was drunk! So when Hannah turned to go, Eli said, “You’ve got to stop getting drunk like this. Put away your wine!” **Eli shakes finger at Hannah.**

Hannah looked at him. “No, sir. I’m not drunk. I’m deeply troubled. I was pouring out my soul to God! I’m full of anguish and grief, not wine!” **Hannah shakes head.**

Eli said, “Go in peace. May God grant you what you have asked of Him.” **Eli smiles at Hannah.** Hannah’s whole face lightened. God COULD answer her prayer! She went home happy and enjoyed the rest of festival! **Hannah smiles and runs back to Elkanah and Peninnah.**

After she got home, she discovered she was going to have a baby! And in what must have seemed like a short time, Hannah was holding a little baby boy! **Hannah pretends to hold baby.** She named him Samuel, which means “Heard!” She had asked God for this baby, and God had heard and answered her prayer! But she could not imagine the BIG things God was going to do through this little baby boy!

Connect
the Bible story
to the heart of
each child

Wrap-Up

Most of us have something that is comforting to us, like a pillow or a teddy bear. Show teddy bear. When trouble comes or when we feel sad, we might hold that comforting thing or give it a hug. Hug teddy bear. But there is something even better to do when we feel sad or have big problems—we can pray to God like Hannah did!

Action Plan

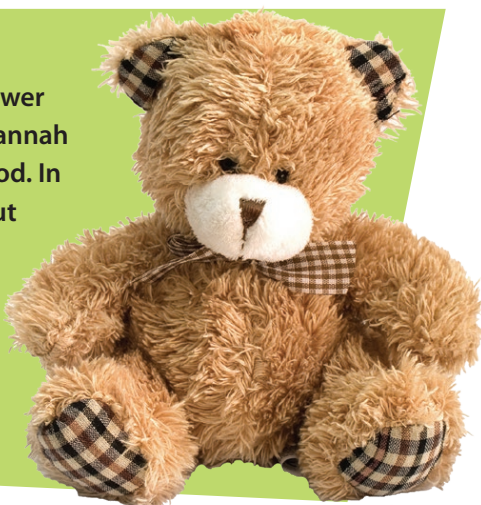
Talk about times to ask for God's help and then trust Him.

Hannah found out that God listens to her and loves her. Read Psalm 86:17 aloud. Hannah could have said these words! We can say these words, too. God will comfort and help us! Because God loves us, He will hear our prayers and give us what's really best for us. We can trust God because of who He is—the one true God!

Every
lesson points
kids to
Jesus

Connecting Kids to Jesus

Hannah prayed and trusted God to answer her. And after she saw God's answer, Hannah prayed again, thanking and praising God. In this special prayer, Hannah talked about the King God would one day send. God answered this prayer when He sent Jesus as our King! God's Son, Jesus, wants us to pray and trust God like Hannah did.



Get Talking

(25-30 minutes)

Inspire kids to review God's Word with Kid-Talk cards

Distribute Lesson 1 *Kid Talk Cards*. Students answer the multiple choice questions on Side 1.

- **What was Hannah's problem? What did she do about her problem?** (She prayed about it.)
- **What did God do to comfort and help Hannah?** (God sent Eli to listen to her problem. God also heard and answered Hannah's prayer.)
- **Point to photo of teddy bear. A teddy bear can remind us of feeling comforted. When we ask God for help, He really will help us in the very best way. And knowing that is very comforting, and it helps us to trust in Him!**



Engage kinesthetic learners with interactive discussion

Whiteboard Time



On whiteboard, draw a clock face with hands showing 9:00. **What do you usually do at 9:00 in the morning? What is something that you might talk to God about at that time?** Students tell ideas. Repeat with other times of the day. **We can pray and trust God to help us all the time!**

Students look at Side 2 of *Kid Talk Cards* and read Bible verse together. **Who does Psalm 86:17 say will comfort us? Even though we can't see God, the Bible tells us that He is always with us and cares for us. He often gives us people who help and comfort us when we are sad or have problems.** Students decode the words to discover ways to show trust in God.

Invite kids to put the lesson into action using KidTalk Card challenges!

- **What are some ways that God has helped and comforted you?** Tell your own answer before asking students to respond.
- **What are some good reasons we have for trusting God to answer our prayers and care for us?** (God promised to answer our prayers. The Bible tells us about God's love and care. God has helped us and other people we know in the past.)
- **When might kids your age need comfort?** (When they are sick or get hurt. When others make fun of them.)
- **What are some ways God comforts us?** (Listens to our prayers. Gives us people to care for us. Reminds us in the Bible of His love for us.)



Encourage kids to pray together every week

Prayer

Invite volunteers to tell prayer requests as you write them on the whiteboard. Tell about a request you prayed about that God didn't answer right away. On long strips of paper, students write reminders of their long-term requests. Then pray with students about the needs and concerns they mention.

Art

Give each student a Praybook page. Students cut along solid lines. Then students attach 10 to 12 Post-it Notes on the shaded area, with the sticky side closest to the bottom fold line, and fold bottom edge up. Students staple bottom edge in place, securing the Post-it Notes in place. On top section, students write a reminder to pray and trust God and then fold on middle dotted line and slide upper section under stapled flap to close book. Students decorate the book, inside and out. On Post-it Notes, students write prayer requests.

Connect: God wants us to pray to Him about anything. God knows that we can feel worried or sad, and He is ready to listen to our problems and help us in many ways. We can trust Him!

YOU NEED

One Praybook page (from the Downloadable Lesson Extras) printed on card stock for each student, scissors, 3-inch (7.5-cm) Post-it Notes, stapler, markers.

TIP

If you do not have Post-it Notes, cut paper into 3-inch (7.5-cm) squares for students to use instead.



Active games
direct kids' energy
to keep learning
while moving and
having fun!

Game

Divide group into two teams. Each team lines up. Place a bowl of Ping Pong balls at the front of each line and give each student two straws. Place an empty bowl at the end of each line. Place a large sheet of paper and two markers near empty bowls.

First student in each line uses straws to pick up a Ping Pong ball and passes ball to next student in line. Ball is passed most effectively if it rests on top of straws as shown in photo. Procedure continues until ball reaches the end of the line. The last player drops it in the empty bowl and then writes on large sheet of paper a time a kid might ask God for help. Player then goes to the front of the line. Repeat until each student on at least one team has had a turn.

Connect: We can ask God for help anytime! It is good to know that God promises to always listen to our prayers and to love and care for us. We can trust Him!

Engage
auditory
learners through
conversation
and music

YOU NEED

Ping Pong balls, four bowls, two straws for each student, large sheet of paper, markers. *Get Going!* Worship music digital files (download before class) and media player



Get Going



Direct students to look at Side 2 of their *Kid Talk Cards* again. **Listen to a song that reminds me to trust God when I pray! I can trust Him because He loves me!** Play "Deep as the Ocean" (track 1 or play music video), inviting students to listen or sing along. **This week, I'll be praying for you to remember to talk to God about any problem, and to trust Him to love and care for you every day!** Distribute Lesson 1 *Family Fridge Fun* papers as students leave.

Fall • Lesson 1



Monday: Bible Verse
"You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me." Psalm 86:17

Point up as you say, "You, Lord." Bring your hands from knee height to overhead as you say, "have helped me." And then hug a family member as you say, "and comforted me." Do it at least until you have hugged everyone in your family!

At-home resources help families connect!

Tuesday: Check It Out!

Check out 1 Samuel 1:1-20. Hannah was teased a lot! What's something people get teased about?

Wednesday: Bible Bit

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-2. When Hannah brought Samuel to live with Eli, she prayed this. What does she delight in? Think of answers God has made to your prayers—and thank Him!

Connecting to Jesus

Hannah prayed and trusted God to answer her. And after she saw God's answer, Hannah prayed again, thanking and praising God. In this special prayer, Hannah talked about the King God would one day send. God answered this prayer when He sent Jesus as our King! God's Son, Jesus, wants us to pray and trust God like Hannah did.

Fall • Lesson 1

Side 1

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Circle the correct ending to each sentence.



1. Peninnah was glad to
 a. share her kids.
 b. make fun of Hannah.
 c. grow bananas.



2. Eli
 a. thought Hannah was drunk.
 b. prayed for Hannah.
 c. both "a" and "b."



3. Hannah
 a. was very tall.
 b. was comforted by God after she prayed.
 c. prayed in the town square.



A teddy bear can remind us of we read us

Side 2

"You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me."

Psalm 86:17

What does it look like to trust God?
 Decode the words to help these kids tell!

Code:
 Jump back one letter in the alphabet!

I'm going to **QSBZ** when I start to **XPSSZ!**

I'll remember God's **OSPNJTF** to **IFMQ** me!



I'm going to **TJOH** about God's **QXFS!**



What will you do?

Add more **flexibility** and **fun** with these **resource options.**



**PRINT
FORMAT**



**DIGITAL
FORMAT**



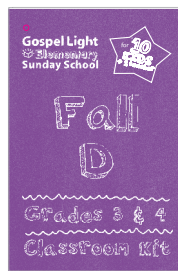
**VIDEO
MEDIA**



**MUSIC
MEDIA**

Teacher's Classroom Kits

Includes everything you need for 1 teacher and 10 students! Teacher guide, visual resources, student activity pages and take home pages. All in one convenient kit.



Teacher Guides

Easy-to-teach Bible lessons with teacher training tips and more. Elementary guides also include additional content found on the free Digital Lesson Extras Download.



Student Pages

Make Bible study fun! Activities are specifically designed for each age level, helping kids dig into the Word and make relevant connections to their lives.



Take-Homes

Build the church to home connection with stories and activities that reinforce each week's lesson.



Visual Resources

Full-color posters, games, and fun activities in 11" x 17" or 11" x 22" (varies by age level).



Elementary Music and Video

Elementary ages will sing and laugh with fresh music and hilarious skits found on the optional CD and DVD add-ons. Videos are produced by the very funny folks at Digital Felt Productions.

