

Virtuous Women

A Prayer and a Promise (Hannah)

Text: 1 Samuel 1:1-25



Lesson 1

Kick Start (Pivots)

Presentation

Show each slide and go over each one to introduce the Pivot Points of the lesson. The Pivots will be called out at different points of the lesson.



Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop



Persevere with God until you make it through



... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
Hebrews 11:6b NKJV

Emphasize the bold first part of verse this week

Use this activity as kids check in and for any early arrivals before the actual lesson begins. This is a simple game or activity that gets kids involved and engaged. It is not based on Bible knowledge so all can participate easily and with confidence!

Sometimes it is loosely tied to a concept of the lesson but again, the primary purpose is to involve the kids early on as an icebreaker to help them feel comfortable in the classroom.



Preparation

- Place a masking tape line on floor and set up dominoes (see diagram)

- Place marbles in a bowl

Note: For larger classes – set up more than one area of play

Presentation

Tell the kids they are going to use the marbles to make it through to the other side of the domino walls. You are not going to be able to break through all at once. It is going to take teamwork and several rolls to chip away at the wall.

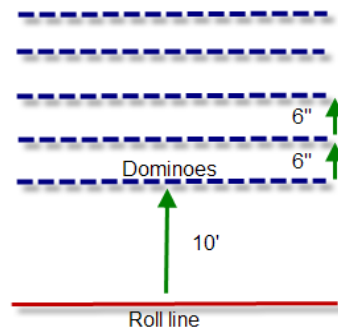
Re-set up dominoes or allow kids to build different kinds of barriers

Pivot Supplies

PP slide 2-4

Pivot Icebreaker Supplies

PP slide 5, dominoes and/or wood blocks, marbles, bowl, masking tape



Icebreaker continued

Play

Give about 5 marbles to 2 kids at a time. Allow them to simultaneously roll the marbles (NOT THROW) to try and knock dominoes down to make it through to the other side.



Re-set up dominoes or allow kids to build different kinds of barriers and walls if time permits.



Kick It Around

Preparation: none

Presentation

(Introduce the concept of sticking with something and not giving up until you make it through to your goal)

Rampin' Up Supplies:

PP slides 2-3, 6-7, Tootsie Pop, M&M



Note: For a treat – tell kids they will give each kid a Tootsie Pop at the end of the class. A good idea is to hand it to their parent.

(Slide 6; hold up an M&M) I really want to get to the chocolate in the center – that's my favorite part. (Put M&M in mouth, chew and swallow) Oh yeah, that was good; It didn't take me long to get to that chocolate center did it?

(Slide 7, hold up and unwrap the Tootsie Pop) What about this? Do you think it will take longer to make it to the middle? (Allow responses) I could try and bite to the center right away but I might crack a filling or tooth! And, I want to enjoy the sucker – I don't want to eat it all at once! (Begin to suck and lick the sucker). Yes, this will take awhile – I will have to PERSEVERE to get make it through to the chocolate center for sure!

(Slide 2) **Pivot Trait:** Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop

I am going to set this sucker aside and finish it later so we can do our Lesson Launch. The Bible story today is about someone who persevered in prayer through some really hard times. This is what we want to learn today – to persevere with God - to refuse to stop until we make it through to our goal!

I bet each of us want prayer to be more like the M&M was – not the Tootsie Pop, right? We want God to answer us right away and not have to put in any work or wait, right? Tootsie Pop prayer is harder - it takes persistence.

(Slide 3) **Pivot Point:** Persevere with God until you make it though



Lesson Launch

Presentation

Kids will participate in the story by holding up hurdles as designated in

1 Samuel 1:1-25 (Hannah)

Preparation

- Copy hurdle sheets onto cardstock (1 sheet per 2 kids)
 - Cut the sheets in half so each kid has a sheet with 2 hurdles
- Give a ½ sheet to each kid at the beginning of the

Lesson Launch Supplies:

PP slides 8-11, Bible, hurdle image (VWL1 Hurdles doc), scissors, cardstock, plastic orange cones (sports/safety/field cones), Tootsie Pop (from Rampin' Up) **Note:** If cones are not available use a few boxes or even chairs in the room for obstacles.

Lesson Launch continued



the story and by jumping.

Does anyone know what is on your card? (Allow responses) Yes, it is a hurdle.

Where is it used? (Allow responses). Yes in a race the runner must run and jump over the hurdles as fast as they can. In life we come up against situations or problems that can be called hurdles too. These are tough or difficult situations we run into; problems that we face that we have to find a solution to make it through them.

In our story today Hannah faced some big hurdles (kids hold up their cards). But, we are going to see that Hannah persevered. Do you remember what the word persevere means?

Pivot Trait: Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you make it through

Hannah refused to stop and give up. When I tell you to jump – we are all going to stand and jump in place to get over the hurdle like Hannah did.

Our series of lessons for the next five weeks are about virtuous women. What does virtuous mean? Virtuous means to be morally excellent, pure and upright. The Bible says in Proverbs 31:10 KJV -

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

Virtuous women are very valuable and rare. We are going to talk about 4 virtuous women that are found in the Bible.

There was a man whose name was Elkanah. He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. (Slide 8) Peninnah was able to birth children, but Hannah was not able to. This made Hannah very sad.

It was hard to make it through each day (**Hold up card**) seeing all Peninnah's children, knowing she was unable to give her husband a child. But, Hannah persevered and refused to stop! She wanted to make it through that hurdle! (**Stand, jump up, sit down**)

Elkanah loved Hannah very much and always gave her extra gifts to show he loved her even though she couldn't have children.

Every year Elkanah and his family went to worship and sacrifice to God at a place called Shiloh. The family gave thanks to God for His blessings. Elkanah's other wife Peninnah would make fun of Hannah because she couldn't have children. In Bible times it was very important for women to have children, especially sons! Peninnah was very cruel to her. (**Hold up card**) But Hannah persevered (**Stand, jump up, sit down**).

(Slide 9) At Shiloh, Hannah would get so upset that she cried and could not eat. Have you ever been so upset about something that you couldn't eat? (Allow responses). It's not a good feeling at all!

Elkanah would ask Hannah why she was so sad. He was kind and tried to make her feel better by saying, "Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" But this didn't make Hannah feel better (**hold up card**).

One day when the family had finished a meal in Shiloh, Hannah stood up (**Stand, jump up, sit down**). (Slide 10) Hannah began to pray to God and wept very hard. She made a promise to God that if He would give her a son that she would give the son back to God to serve Him for all of his life!



Hannah refused to quit! (**Stand, jump up, sit down**).

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you make it through

The priest named Eli was sitting nearby and heard Hannah crying and praying. He didn't understand what was going on and thought she had done something wrong! (**Hold up card**). Hannah explained that this wasn't the case – she was praying to God very hard because she was so sad. (**Stand, jump up, sit down**). Hannah wasn't going to let this stop her even when the priest misunderstood her!

Eli then told her to go in peace and asked God to answer Hannah's prayer. Hannah thanked Eli and she left and ate something. Her face was no longer sad! (**Stand, jump up, sit down**).

Early the next morning the family woke up and worshiped God and then went back to their home. God did remember Hannah's prayer. Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son (**Stand, jump up, sit down**). (Slide 11) She named him Samuel which means, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

Hannah stuck with it and refused to give up!

Pivot Trait: Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you make it through

*The next year that Elkanah went to Shiloh, Hannah stayed home with her baby Samuel. After Samuel was old enough, Hannah took Samuel to Shiloh and presented Samuel to God. That must have been hard right? (**Hold up card**) To give up the son that she had prayed to have for years! But Hannah kept her promise to God (**Stand, jump up, sit down**).*

Samuel stayed with Eli the priest and served God in the temple. Hannah made a special coat or priest's uniform to take to Samuel at Shiloh every year. Remember, Samuel was a growing boy! God blessed Hannah for persevering with God and then keeping her promise to Him.

What is our Pivot Point? **Pivot Point:** Persevere with God until you make it through

What About Me?

Every day we are going to face obstacles or hurdles. (Drop a cone on floor in front of you) Sometimes things just seem to appear out of nowhere like this. Other times it may be something that bothers us or causes us difficulty for a long time – like Peninnah made fun of Hannah for years. (Put another cone out) Now we can either stop and give up (stop at cone) or persevere with God's help and find away over (jump over cone) around (walk around cone) or sometimes even though the difficulty! (Kick cone aside)

Pivot Trait: Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you break through

(Pull out Tootsie Pop) Remember our sucker? (Begin to lick and suck it again) Yep – persevering isn't easy – it takes time! But, I will eventually make it through to the center. If you persevere with God like Hannah – you will make it through!

Pivot Trait: Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you break through



Kick It In

Air Time

Preparation: none

1. Why was Hannah sad? (She couldn't have a baby)
2. Did Peninnah help Hannah? (No – she made fun of Hannah)
3. Was Elkanah angry with Hannah? (No he gave her gifts and loved her very much)
4. What did Hannah do at Shiloh to persevere and get her answer? (She prayed to God and made a promise to God if He answered her prayer)
5. Did God answer her prayer? (Yes – Hannah had a baby boy)
6. What did Hannah do to keep her promise? (She gave her son, Samuel to God to live and serve God in Shiloh)

Presentation

Show the slides (or PDFS) and review the lesson and Pivots to this point



Pivot Verse Game *Note – try this game or one of the Pivot Verse games listed on the components page if you prefer. Mix and match games each week or if you find a class favorite, stick with it!*
Note: Do not discard supplies or pull up the course. This game is repeated next week for the second part of the verse!



Pivot Verse: ... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6b NKJV

PIVOT VERSE *Note: We spend 2 weeks on the Pivot Verse – we recommend emphasizing the bold first part each week.*

Preparation

Write one group of words on one index card:

- For he
- who comes
- to God
- must believe
- that He is

Note: The result will be 5 index cards - each with a different group of words.

- Tape one card to the front of each container
- Set up the game per the diagram (Reduce distances if too difficult for your kids)
- Have kids make paper wad balls just prior to playing the game
- Place the balls in the box
- Line up kids behind line

Show PP slide and repeat it several times with the class. (Leave the slide displayed during the game)

Air Time Supplies:

PP slides 12 - 23



Game Supplies

PP slide 4, five containers of different shapes and sizes (trash cans, boxes, baskets, etc.) measuring tape or yardstick, masking tape, paper (recycled is great), 5 index cards, marker, timer, dry erase board, marker, eraser, box for paper wads



Pivot Verse Activity Continued

Play

- Each player gets 3 paper balls to toss each turn
- Player one tries to get one word in the first container with the words, “For he”
- If the player is successful – she moves to the second container, “who comes”
- After player one tosses three balls, player two continues where player one left off
- Continue in this fashion, stop time when the entire verse is formed and shouted out
- Record the time
- Play another round starting with the players who have not tossed yet
- Try to beat the best time

Note: Following each successful toss, the kids must yell out the words on that container together. Write the words on the dry erase board forming the entire verse as the game progresses.

Optional play:

- Mix up the containers out of order and play as above
- Set a time. Play as above. See how many times the Pivot Verse can be made within that time. Start the Pivot Verse again with the next kid in line and build it again and again.

Talk to kids briefly about what the verse is saying. Do they believe that God IS; that He exists? Is He real to them? Ask them if they know kids at school or even family that don't believe God is alive and real. Our whole Christian faith is based on the fact that Jesus and God are real and alive today – otherwise we are wasting our time praying! Allow kids some time to discuss this with you.

Note: This is an important time. Kids have their faith challenged everyday by kids at school, TV, internet, their music. Can they defend their faith and stand up for it?



Preparation

- Cut top of bags down to about 9” - 10” tall
- Using marker write one word per bag in big letters (people, time, doubt, work, tired)
- Set up playing area per diagram (distances approximate)
- Bags should be lined up so writing is to-

ward start line

- Blow up balloon and write “God” in big letters using marker
- Line up kids behind line

Presentation

It's hard to persevere in anything isn't it? It takes determination and energy! It's easier to just give up and complain.

Pivot Trait: Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you break through

Hannah didn't give up! She persevered and God answered her prayer. We are going to play a little game with an obstacle course. Why? Because when you decide to pray about something, often you don't get an answer right away. And, like with Hannah, you have to overcome a lot of obstacles as you

Activity Grades 1 – 5

Supplies:

masking tape, yardstick, 5 large PAPER grocery bags (extras nice), marker, empty paper towel roll (cardboard tube), balloon, scissors, timer



Pivot Verse Activity Continued

pray. Things like:

- People - who are mean, tease, taunt you or tell you to give up!
- Time – everyone is busy. Praying take time and doesn't usually get an instant answer
- Doubt – sometimes the obstacle to overcome is YOU! You begin to doubt
- Work – Persevering isn't fun. It takes effort and work
- Tired – grow impatient and weary. Get worn down

We are going to time each one of you and pick FIVE winners. Now the key to persevering is keeping your eyes on God! (Pull out balloon and towel tube – place the balloon on top of the roll).

Each of you must place the “God” balloon on the tube and balance it as you step over these objects to break through to the finish line. You'll have to keep your eyes on that balloon!

Play

- The first player takes tube and places balloon on top
 - Start the time
 - The player carefully walks the course stepping over each obstacle (bag) while balancing the balloon
 - Stop and record the time when each player crosses the finish line
 - If the balloon falls, it must be placed back on the tube and the player continues from that spot
- The players with the five slowest times win!

I kind of tricked you didn't I? (Allow responses) You see persevering is all about making it to the end; breaking through all obstacles no matter how many times you fail or how long it takes!

Option: Play again and this time pick the five quickest times for the winners



Kick It Home

Preparation: none

Large Group Go over the Pivots one more time

Final Spin Supplies:

Power Point slides 2-4, 24-28



Persevere – to stick with it and refuse to stop



Persevere with God until you break through



... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6b NKJV

Hannah persevered with God until she broke through – even with all the hurdles she faced. We will face obstacles and hurdles every day. (Slide 24) When we get over one hurdle there probably is another one waiting for us.

(Slide 25) It's easy to give up isn't it? Especially when we come up against a really big obstacle or hurdle!

(Slide 26) Sometimes we might fail, mess up and fall flat on our face!

(Slide 27) But if we persevere – God will show us away to get around the difficulty!

(Slide 28) When we persevere with God – we will break through and reach the goal!

Kickrickulum Virtuous Women

Here are your Packed Out extra components!



Kickrick Opening Puppet Skit

Preparation: none

Kick Rick enters the room

Teacher: Hi Kick Rick. What's happenin'?

Kick Rick: Oh, I am on my way to marital arts class.

Teacher: Oh, cool! That sounds fun! How long have you been doing it?

Rick: About 3 weeks. It was fun at first but now I have to learn all these moves. It's a lot of work! I kinda wish I could quit.

Teacher: That's too bad Rick. Can you quit?

Rick: Well, I promised my mom if she paid for the classes that I would stick with it for at least 6 months. I can't really quit. I made my mom a promise.

Teacher: Ohhhh, I see. Well, it sounds like you better just persevere then.

Rick: Purse? Hey, I don't carry a purse!

Teacher: No Rick. Persevere; that's what our lesson is about today. To persevere means to stick with it and refuse to stop. We can pray and ask God's help to make it through!

Rick: Oh Okay, I like that. I will persevere then with God's help! I am gonna practice real hard for my yellow belt, then my orange then...

Teacher: Slow down Rick! Just take it one practice at a time.

Rick: Thanks... I will! See everyone later! (Leaves)

Intro Puppet Skit Supplies:

Boy puppet character, puppet stage or something simple like behind a counter or a table with a cloth, boxes, anything works!

Kickrickulum Virtuous Women

Here are your Packed Out extra components!



Wendy the Waitress

Lesson 1 Pivot Skit Part 1 Persevere

Character: Wendy the Waitress

Preparation: none

Action!

(Wendy is sloppily and lazily putting out place settings of silverware and napkins as she talks.)

Intro Character Skit Supplies:

Apron, pencil (behind ear), silverware and napkins

Wendy: Man, oh man. Same ol, same ol; everyday seems the same.

(Lifts her foot and rubs it) I don't know if I can get through the day.

(Looks behind her, annoyed and yells to Sam in the kitchen) Yeah, yeah, the orders up... everyone's in a hurry! Okay, okay!

(Looks up at the sky) God, please help me here. I just don't like people sometimes. No one seems to appreciate me. How do I make it through each day?

Lesson 1 Pivot Skit Part 2

Supplies: Same as part 1

(Wendy is pacing the silverware on table but she has energy, smiling and taking pride in her work. She takes her apron and shines a fork that is smudged then places it on table and adjusts the angles to make each piece straight)

There, that's better! Nothing like a table that is clean and ready for the next customer!

(Looks around) What else can I do? Hmmm, (looks at floor) this floor could be swept again and ... (looks behind her as Sam calls out – turns and yells to Sam with a smile)

Okay Sam, than you! You sure are quick today! I will be right there so it stays nice and hot!

(Looks down and talks to self) Thank you God for hearing my prayer and answering me with that verse you showed me on my lunch break. The verse in Ephesians 6:7 says, "Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people".

That's all I need to remember. I work for God not for people. Everything I do is to Him! When it doesn't matter how people treat me, I am working for God!

(Turns around and yells to Sam) Be right there Sam – keep 'em coming!

Kickrickulum Virtuous Women

Here are your Packed Out extra components!



Virtuous Women Lesson 1

Relay Persevere

Note: Make sure clothing is not too big to cause kids to trip while running.

Preparation

- Make a start line with masking tape
- Make a finish line approximately 20' - 30' from start line
- Divide class into 2 teams

Presentation

We are going to play a relay race. Remember what Hannah took to Samuel each year? (Allow response). She took him a new uniform or robe to wear in the temple. Now, Hannah didn't wear Samuel's uniform when she travelled to see Samuel... but we are going to!

The line you see at the other end of the room is the temple line. Each of us will put the jacket on, run to the line and then back, take the jacket off and hand it to the next player on the team.

Play

- Line up the two teams in two rows behind start line.
- Start the race. The first player for each team puts on the jacket (see note below) BEFORE the player can cross the start line.
- The player runs to the temple line then returns back to the start line.
- The player hands the jacket to the next player on their team.
- The second player puts the jacket on and repeats the process
- The first team that gets all of their players to the temple and back wins!

Relay the truth

Hannah persevered in prayer until God blessed her with a baby boy. She kept her promise and gave her son back to God to serve Him in the temple. Hannah made Samuel a new uniform each year and took it to him at the temple. We made the journey to the temple and didn't just bring the uniform, we wore it!

Options

To play non-competitively – play as a large group. Work against the clock. Time how long it takes to have the whole group run to the temple and back. Play several rounds and try to beat the previous fastest time.

Note: Make sure each player puts both arms in the sleeves and actually “wears” the jacket or robe properly before they cross the start line and begin running. The clothing cannot be partially hanging off or carried. Players don't have to button or zip the jacket or robe.

Relay Race Supplies:

2 medium/large jackets or robes (see note), masking tape, measuring tape or yardstick

Kickrickulum Virtuous Women

Here are your Packed Out extra components!



Lesson 1 AL's Temple T Preparation

- With marker write "Al's Temple T" on front
- Write "In Training" on back
- Place the T-shirt in the bag

Oily AI Character Skit Supplies:

1 white t-shirt, black marker,
clear plastic bag

Oily AI bursts into the classroom carrying the bagged T-shirt

AI: (salesman's voice) Hello everybody!

Teacher (makes disgusted face): My, my, if it isn't Oily AI; the world's sleaziest salesman.

AI: I think you made a mistake... I am the world's most anointed salesman!

Teacher: Hmmm, I don't think I did, the Oil I think is for slick and greasy, not anointed.

AI: Thank you! (Whips out the T-shirt bag) Introducing Al's Temple T! Oily AI searches the earth to bring you the world's most unique products! The Temple T is just what you needed!

Teacher: The Temple T... no, no, I don't think it is what I need.

AI: (Takes it out of the bag) Yes it is, you just don't realize it yet! Hand crafter to Hannah's exact specifications for the temple uniform she made for Samuel. (Holds front up) It say's "Al's Temple T" on the front and (turn around shirt) "In Training" on the back. This tells everyone you are being trained to work in the temple! Plus the front is great advertising for me!

Teacher: What? Hannah's exact specifications? It's a T-shirt AI not a temple uniform! And, how on earth could you ever get the specifications anyhow?

AI: I am afraid I cannot tell you. I have my sources! Yes kids... do you want to serve in the Temple or at church like Samuel did? Oil Al's Temple T is your answer!

Teacher: Are you crazy? No one wants that shirt... especially with your name on the front!

AI: Yes I must be crazy, crazy to offer this one of a kind product for \$39.95 plus shipping and sewing fees. Buy today and get this handy transparent leather carrying case for free with only a \$10 shipping charge. Yes, get both for only \$69.95!

Teacher: Give me a break! That's a plastic bag not transparent leather! And sewing fees, what is that? And you are charging more for buying them together than separately! This, as usual, is a rip off!

AI: Please hold all comments till the end. Remember when Hannah had to make a new uniform for Samuel each year because he was a growing boy? Well, AI's got you covered! This Temple T is one size fits all! Yes, you will never outgrow it! Yes for just \$49.95 you get the ...

Teacher: Oh come on AI, you just raised the price \$10! We have heard WAAAAAYYYYY too much... Good bye AI. (Takes by the arm and walks to door)

AI: I'll be in the parking lot (opens jacket to reveal credit card logos) I take cash, credit cards....



Nathan Newsworthy Virtuous Women Lesson 1 Interview with Eli the Priest

Characters: Nathan, Eli

Characters stand together

Note: Eli is very old and his memory isn't the greatest

Action!

Nathan: (standing next to Eli) Good day, Nathan Newsworthy reporting for BBC TV on the scene in Shiloh in front of the temple with Eli the Head Priest. Good afternoon Eli!

Eli: Good morning Nathan

Nathan: (smiles and looks surprised) You said my name correctly Eli, thank you!

Eli: (looks confused) Um, why wouldn't I?

Nathan: It's just that most people I interview call me Nate or Nelson, Newton, everything but Nathan!

Eli: No, I make it a point to learn people's names. As a priest it is important to know people's names when I pray for them. So I learned your name, NICK, right away.

Nathan: (truly annoyed) Ohhhhh no! I shouldn't have said anything! My name is not Nick, it is Nathan! Anyway, let's move on shall we? Tell us about Hannah.

Eli: Hannah who?

Nathan: (Puts head down) Hannah, Samuel's mother!

Eli: Oh yes! Wonderful, virtuous woman! She has a little boy names Samuel. He works with me in the temple.

Nathan: Uh, yes, that is the Hannah we are talking about. Tell us more.

Eli: Hannah came to the temple every year to pray with her husband, Elkanah. He had another wife named Peninnah Everyone had a great time but Hannah. Hannah was always sad because she couldn't have a baby. That Peninnah always made fun of her too. I felt so bad for her.

Nathan: But she has a son you said named Samuel!

Eli: Yes, I know that. I told you that Neville.

Nathan: Ahhhhhh! The name is Nathan not Neville! Yes I know you told us that. How did Hannah end up with a son?

Eli: Well, she prayed every year for God to bless her with a baby. She persevered year after year! She refused to give up! One year she promised God that if God gave her a baby boy that she would give him back to serve God!

Nathan: Absolutely incredible! Then what happened Eli?

Nathan Newsworthy Character Skit Supplies:

Nathan's standard costume consists of a "neat" biblical look as compared to some of the characters he interviews. Nathan holds a microphone (don't need a cord and it doesn't actually need to work.)

The characters he interviews might look rough, maybe dusty and tattered. Most have either been on the road, in the desert, in battle, etc. Beards are great, headbands, turbans, sandals. Each lesson may call out additional supplies for that skit.

Microphone



Eli: None of your business! (Bends over laughing and slaps Nathan on the back)

Nathan: (Startled, regroupes himself and gives a slight fake laugh) Oh yes, good one... you are pretty strong for an old man Eli.

Eli: When Hannah was done praying I felt like God gave me a message for her. He told me to tell her to go in peace, that God heard her prayer. And I will be darned if God didn't answer her prayer! The next year Elkanah came back and told me the news. Hannah was at home with a baby boy!

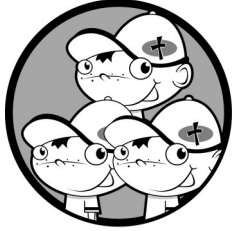
Nathan: That is amazing! And Samuel works with you in the temple now?

Eli: He did until I fired him! (Laughs hard and slaps Nathan on the back again) No, I am kidding you! That boy is a faithful worker. He does everything I ask him to do and more!

Nathan (frazzled and annoyed) Yes, another good one Eli. What a story about how a virtuous woman named Hannah persevered with God until she got her baby boy and then kept her promise!

Eli: Wow, that is a great story, where did you hear that Nolan? (Laughs hard again)

Nathan: You are one funny guy Eli. Yes, this is Nathan Newsworthy saying persevere until your prayers are answered! Good day!



Lesson 1 Small Group Hannah

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 1-25

Pivot Point: Persevere with God until you make it through
Pivot Verse activity

Pivot Verse: ... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6b NKJV

Look up the Pivot Verse in the kid's Bibles. Go over the Pivot Verse. Discuss what it means to say "**for he who comes to God must believe that He is.**"

Discussion Starters:

- Would you go to someone's house you knew wasn't home? Would you pray to them? NO! How do you know God is?
 - How do you deal with friends or others who don't believe God exists? I mean, in their eyes you are wasting time praying and going to church.
 - Do you ever have doubts that God exists? When? How do you get past that?
- Do you think at times that Hannah had doubts whether God existed and cared about her? She waited many years for a baby while Peninnah made fun of her the whole time.

Pivot Verse Game

Pivot Verse: ... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6b NKJV

Preparation

- Write each word of the first part of the verse (bold words) on two separate cards
 - Leave two cards blank
 - Shuffle the cards
- Flip the cards over and write a different number on each card (1-24)

Play

- Place the cards – number side up – on the table or floor
- Kids take turns trying to find the match of each word
- The first player chooses a card. Flip the card over
- The same player selects a second card. Flip the card over
- If the cards match the player keeps one card and places the other card – word side up- on the table off to the side of the other cards (the verse will be built as the game progresses)
- If the cards don't match the cards are turned back over so the number is visible
- The second player takes a turn
- Repeat until all the cards are matched
- The player with the most matches wins (or just play as a group to build the verse)
- Repeat the verse together a few times

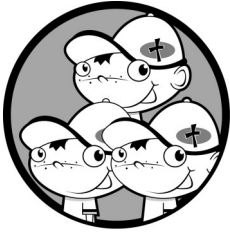
Pivot Verse Activity Supplies:

Bibles



Pivot Verse Game Supplies:

Bibles, 24 index cards, marker



Note: The blank cards stay in play the whole game. They are not meant to be matched. The cards just add a degree of difficulty especially at the end when just a few cards remain.

Journal

Make journals to keep through this series. A mini spiral notebook or notepad is great for this. Let kids decorate their journal cover. Have kids put their names on them

Journal Supplies:

Bibles, paper, pencils, stickers, markers, crayons

Ask Kids to draw a picture of Hannah presenting Samuel to Eli or of Samuel wearing the uniform that Hannah made for him

Ask kids to write down one situation where they had to persevere.

- Did you make it through or did they give up? Did you trust God or did you try to make it through on your own?
- Have you ever had a situation where you were made fun of for something you couldn't help like Hannah?
- How did you make it through? Did you ask for help from an adult or pray for help from God?

Leader - We will do the journal each week and review answers. Collect the journals after the lesson. File them for the next week. Keep extra notebooks for new kids and visitors. If you know a visitor will not be returning, (out of town visitor) let them take their journal home.

Bible Workout Ecclesiastes 5:5

Have kids look up and read Ecclesiastes 5:5

It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it

Bible Workout Supplies:

Bibles

Discuss with the kids what this verse means to them:

- Ask if any of them have promised to do something for God IF He answered a prayer for them.
- Was the prayer answered? Did you follow through and keep your promise or did you forget?
- Hannah kept her promise even though it meant giving her son back to God! Discuss how hard that must have been. Discuss how easy it would have been to decide not to keep her promise!
- Discuss the meaning of virtuous and how Hannah was a virtuous woman by keeping her promise
- Virtuous means to be morally excellent, pure and upright. The Bible says in Proverbs 31:10 KJV -

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

Take Home Challenge

At end of Small Group time have kids share a situation that calls for perseverance in their lives. Have the group pray for each one.

Explain that Hannah was made fun of for years because of something out of her control – she wasn't able to have a baby. Sometimes daily we need to ask God for the strength and ability to endure ridicule and cruel comments. God heard Hannah's prayer and blessed her because she didn't give up!

Challenge the kids to each day in prayer time and through the day to remind God that they believe HE IS, and that He hears their prayer and will answer it.