

# Adventures with GOD!

## GIVE GOD THANKS (A.2.Winter.6)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 1:10-20, 24-28
Key Verse	1 Thessalonians 5:18
Key Concept	I can give God thanks.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Act out what happens in today's story 2. Say the Bible verse by memory 3. Give thanks to God through prayer

### Life Application

Another part of God's plan is that each one of us expresses our thankfulness to God. The children will learn to say thank you to God through prayer. They will be able to express thanks for the things that God has given them and done for them. God desires our love and gratitude. When we give thanks we are recognizing God's love for us. During the week they will be able to continue to express thanks to God.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Pictures and illustrations	10 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible exploration	Figures	10 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons, glue, scissors, yarn, felt, cardstock	10 minutes
Bible verse and snack		10 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Introduction:** Before the class begins, have pictures or illustrations hung up of people that are thanking God, praying to God, or of things that are given to us by God. In this lesson you will find some possible illustrations. You can also cut pictures out of newspapers or magazines. When the children arrive invite them to look around the room and express what they see in the pictures.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle.

**Prayer:** “God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen.” (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible exploration:** This lesson is very important, especially as many times children think that they get things just because they want them. Today is a reminder that all good things come from God – a new baby brother, new friends, etc. – and that we can thank God for these good gifts. The Bible story is found in 1 Samuel 10-20, 24-28. Tell the story in your own words. Here is an example:

“There was a woman named Hannah. She was advanced in years and she had been unable to have a baby. Hannah felt very sad and she cried and didn’t want to eat. One day her husband asked her, “Why are you crying?” She didn’t answer him, but instead she got up and went to be alone where she could cry and pray to the Lord. When Hannah was praying she made a promise to God, “O God, if you answer this prayer and if you give me a child, I will dedicate him to you all the days of his life.” And you know what happened? Do you think God gave her a son? Well, God did answer her prayer and gave her a son and she was so thankful and she dedicated him to the Lord. When the child was old enough, she took him to the temple and there he served God. She gave God thanks and she kept her promise to God.”

If you have illustrations to use while you tell the story, use them. One option is as you are telling the story, or after the story, to take a pen and on one of the finger tips of the children draw the face of a baby. Get them involved in the story and in thinking about how excited Hannah was when God answered her prayer. Have them act out different parts of the story: i.e., Hannah praying and taking Samuel to the temple.

Ask the children what it feels like when we receive something good, a gift for example. Remind them that what we have comes from God and that we are to be grateful for what God has given

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us. What are things that God has given us? Parents, friends, food, a beautiful world, etc. How do we thank God?

**Craft:** You will find a variety of crafts to choose from in the following pages.

**Bible verse:** Repeat the Bible verse with them. Sing it if it's possible, using a simple rhythm. As you hand out the snack today, have each child tell you the Bible verse.

**Snack and prayer:** Help them to express in their own words, thanks to God. Begin the prayer saying something like, "God you have given us so many things. I want to give you thanks for my hands because with them I can do so many things. Miles (use the name of one of the kids in your class) wants to thank you for...." Invite the children to say "Thank you Jesus for...."

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle.

**Prayer:** Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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ILLUSTRATION



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## CRAFT

### Option 1

Materials: felt (2 different colors) cut into circles, circles cut out of cardboard, scissors, glue, yarn, tape, pattern, Bible verse written out.

Instructions:

1. Before class, cut out felt circles and the hands (see pattern)
2. Each child should have one card board circle and one set of hands.
3. Glue the felt circle on the cardboard one.
4. Then glue the hands on top of the circle and the verse on the other side.
5. Tape a piece of yarn on the circle so that the circle can be hung as a decoration.

### Option 2

Materials: a pattern of folded hands praying for each child, glue, card stock, crayons, rice, grains

Instructions:

1. Before class, cut out a pair of praying hands for each child.
2. Glue the pattern on a piece of card stock.
3. The children can glue on different types of grains, rice, or other materials to decorate.

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PATTERN



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ILLUSTRATION

Hannah crying



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## ILLUSTRATION

Hannah pregnant





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## ILLUSTRATION

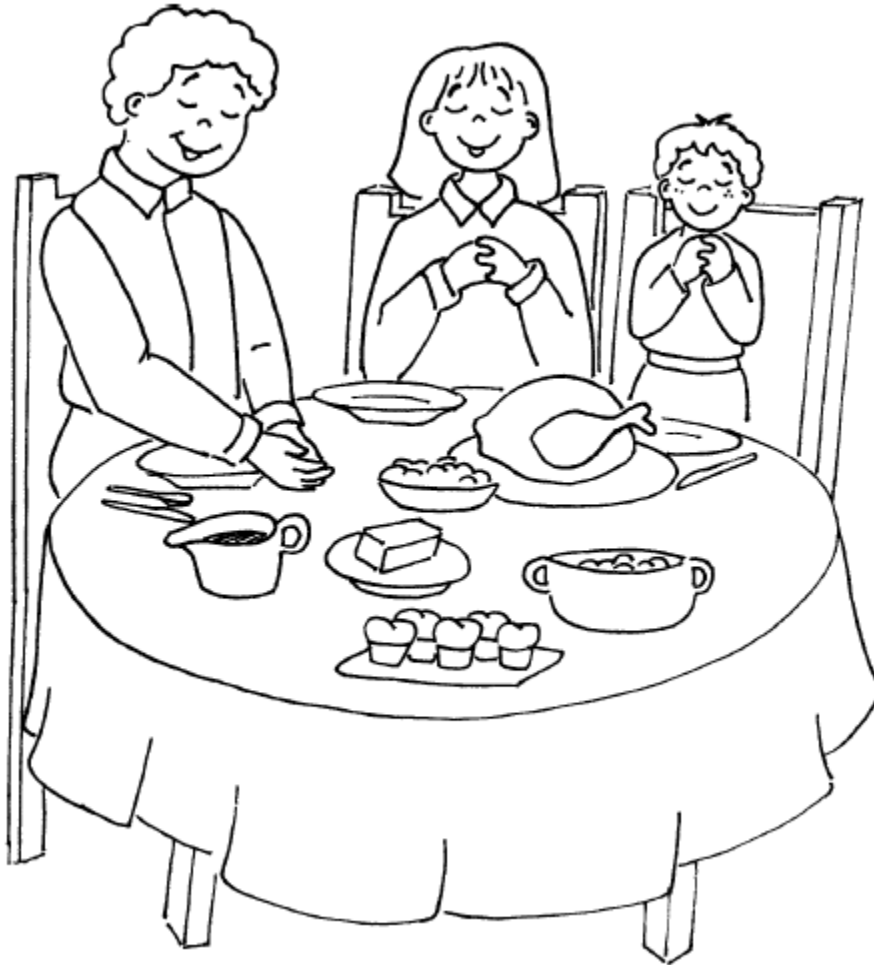
Hannah and her baby



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ILLUSTRATION

Prayer



1 Thessalonians 5:18