

Hannah Prays in the Temple (I wrote this story)

In the Bible in 1 Samuel Chapter 1, we learn about a man named Elkanah.

Elkahan lived in a town called Ramah and he had TWO wives. Now having two wives was a common thing at that time. But since that time, God has told us that we should have only one wife or one husband.

Elkanah's wives were named Peninnah and Hannah.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. And this made Hannah very sad.

Every year Elkanah the husband, would leave his home town and travel to a town called Shiloh. In Shiloh, Elkanah would worship the Lord and give his offerings. Elkanah also gave to Peninnah and all her children, but to Hannah, he gave twice as much because he loved her very much.

Hannah was very sad because she had no children. And every year, as they went to worship the Lord, Hannah would be so upset that she did not eat.

When Elkanah saw how sad Hannah was, he said to her "Hannah, why are you crying, and why aren't you eating? And why are you so sad? Am I not better to you than 10 sons?"

Now Peninnah was not very kind to Hannah, she would tease her and make fun of her because she could not have children. This happened every year when they went up to the house of the Lord at Shiloh.

Peninnah would upset Hannah until Hannah would cry and cry and eat nothing at all.

One day, Hannah was still so very sad, so she prayed to the LORD, and cried very much, and she made a vow (that is a promise) and said "Lord All-Powerful, see how sad I am, remember me and don't forget me. If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life."

But as she prayed, Eli, the priest, was watching her, he saw that her lips moved, but her voice was silent, and this was because Hannah was praying in her heart. Isn't it a wonderful thing that the Lord can hear us when we pray silent prayers?

But Eli thought that she was drunk and he told her to put away the wine. But Hannah answered him and said "No, my lord, I am a very sad woman, I have not had any wine, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. Do not think of me as a drunken woman." So Eli told her "go in peace, and may the God of Israel give you what you have asked of him." And so Hannah went and ate, and she was not sad any more, because she knew that God had heard her prayers and that He would give her what she wanted the most. A little, baby boy. Hannah was so happy that she returned home with her husband.

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Her name was Dorcas, or as she was sometime called...Tabitha.

What was special about Dorcas? She was a giver wasn't she?

She loved people; especially the poor and the widows and she did EVERYTHING that she could in order to help them.

Well, today, we are going to learn about another woman from the Bible.

And you can read about her in 1 Samuel Chapter 1.

Any guesses as to what her name is?

Her name is Hannah.

And just like Dorcas, Hannah was a very special woman.

Hannah was a married woman. And her husband's name was Elkanah.

She loved Elkanah very much, and Elkanah loved her as well.

But... there was someone else in Hannah's life that did not like her at all.

And that person's name was Peninnah.

Peninnah was another one of Elkanah's wives.

In our day and time, the law requires that men have only one wife. But in the Bible times, it was their custom to have more than one wife.

We know by reading 1 Samuel Chapter 1 that Elkanah had at least two wives.

Hannah and Peninnah.

Although Hannah was a sweet and loving woman, Peninnah was a jealous and vindictive woman.

When Peninnah saw how much Elkanah loved Hannah, she became very cruel to her.

In reality, Peninnah was probably jealous of all the love and all the attention that Elkanah was giving to Hannah.

Jealousy can make a person do some pretty mean things can't it?

And Peninnah was extremely mean to Hannah.

You see, Peninnah had several children but Hannah had no children at all.

It wasn't that Hannah didn't want children.

She wanted a child very, very much.

A child to love and to cuddle and to take care of.

But for some reason, God had not blessed Hannah with a child.

Now, in the Bible days, one of the main roles that a woman played was to give her husband children.

Peninnah gave Elkanah several children, but Hannah could not give her husband a child.

Because of this, Peninnah made fun of Hannah.

But Elkanah...he didn't make fun of Hannah. In fact, he loved her more than he loved Peninnah.

He knew how sad Hannah was, so he tried every thing that he could in order to make her happy.

When Elkanah went to Shiloh each year, to worship and offer a sacrifice, he would give Peninnah and her children a portion of the meat.

But because he loved Hannah so much, and because the Lord had kept her from having children, Elkanah would always give Hannah an extra portion of the meat.

When Peninnah saw this, she became angry and jealous.

So in order to get even with Hannah, she would tease Hannah again and again about not having any children.

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When Elkanah and Hannah went back home, she became pregnant, and in time she gave birth to a son.

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Peninnah KNEW how much Hannah wanted a child.

So she decided to make fun of Hannah.

Day...after day...after day, she would make fun of Hannah for not having a child.

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Hannah – Prayer – Spending Time with God

(I wrote whole lesson)

Devote Yourselves to Prayer

Bring watchful and Thankful

Colossians 4:2

Today, Is the first Sunday of the New Year.

And so.... this week, I wanted to teach you....as well as remind myself...of what happens when we spend more time with God...more time in fellowship with God...just sitting down ...in a nice quiet place...and talking with God...praying to God.

So, I decided that one of the women from the Bible that is an excellent example is a woman named Hannah.

Hannah is a perfect example of what FAITH and PRAYER can do.

Now Hannah didn't have an easy life...in fact...she suffered some GREAT LOWS in her life.

I want you to listen closely and at the end of our lesson, I am going to ask you what you think were some GREAT LOWS in her life...great times of sadness.

Now today, we are going to be reading from the book of FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL.

THE TWO WIVES

When we first start reading 1 Samuel, we learn about a man named Elkanah – L-KAY-NUH.

Elkanah had TWO wives...which was common in those days.

But having more than one wife back in those days had its share of trouble and this family was no exception.

To start with... Peninnah - PUH-NINA ...one of his wives...had two sons...who were priests...and several daughters.

Hannah...his other wife had no children...God had closed her womb...which means that not only did she NOT have children...she COULD NOT have children.

Now back in those days, it was a great honor to have LOTS of children.

So you would think that Elkanah would have loved Peninnah - PUH-NINA more than he loved Hannah.

But that was not the case...

Elkanah loved Hannah much more than he loved Peninnah – PUH-NINA.

In fact, the Bible doesn't even tell us that he loved Peninnah – PUH-NINNA at all...he may have but the Bible does not tell us that.

BUT...the Bible does tell us that he LOVED Hannah.

Which was probably the reason that Peninnah – PUH-NINNA disliked Hannah ...VERY MUCH!

It fact, she was downright CRUEL to poor little Hannah!

The Bible tells us that Peninnah – PUH-NINA looked at Hannah as a RIVAL.

Which means that she felt that she was in a competition with Hannah...even though Hannah could not give Elkanah children.

Peninnah – PUH-NINNA....KNEW that Hannah suffered greatly because of not being able to have children...so guess what she did?

She used this against Hannah...she teased her and taunted her...because she was able to give Elkanah children and Hannah could not.

Now every year Elkanah would travel to the city of Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to God.

When he made his sacrifice...which means when he killed a lamb...or whatever he used to make a sacrifice to God...the Bible tells us that he could

**give portions to Peninnah – PUN-NINNA and her
sons and daughters.**

**BUT...he gave a double portion to Hannah because
he loved her so much.**

**Now what do you think happened when Peninnah –
PUH-NINA saw Elkanah giving Hannah a double
portion?**

**I bet this made her even more angry and
Hannah....even more cruel to her.**

**She probably teased and taunted her even
more...don't you think?**

**The Bible tells us that year after year...when they
went to Shiloh... Peninnah – PUH-NINA cruelly
teased and taunted Hannah.**

**She wasn't just mean...she was cruel...just like a BIG
BULLY.**

She would have Hannah so upset that she would cry...and not eat.

But guess what? The Bible doesn't tell us of one single time that Hannah was cruel to Peninnah – PUH-NINA.

Instead Hannah took her hurt...her anger...her frustrations straight to GOD.

When Elkanah noticed how sad Hannah was...he tried to comfort her. He tried to reassure her that he loved her even though they had no children.

“Why is your heart so sad...and why do you cry so much Hannah...” Am I not better to you than ten sons?

Apparently Elkanah did not know that Peninnah – PUH-NINA was so mean to Hannah.

And Hannah must have NEVER told on her.

Peninnah – PUH-NINA must have been sneaky and cruel to Hannah when Elkanah wasn't around...just like a BIG BULLY.

They can be mean and cruel when no one else is around...but when someone else is around...they act all nice and sweet.

Being a bully is NOT a good thing to do...You may think that your big and tough but you're not.

A Bully is really someone who is simply insecure about themselves...so they pick on those who are quiet...or meek...smaller...or gently of spirit.

Don't EVER...EVER...EVER be a bully to someone!

You don't know what that person is going through in their lives...you don't know the pain or the suffering

**that they are going through...the heartache...the
loneliness.**

**And your bullying may be the very thing that pushes
them over the edge.**

**If someone is bullying you...or if something is bothering
you, don't sit in silence...tell someone!**

**Just like Hannah...she told her troubles to God of
course...but later, she also tells her troubles to someone
else.**

**After she talked with Elkanah...she ate a little food...and
she went to the temple to talk with God.**

**Did you know that it is OK to tattle to God? To talk with
God and to tell Him EVERYTHING that is going on in
your life?**

You CAN...and Hannah did exactly that!!!

I mean...she spilled her troubles out to God...and she left NOTHING unsaid!

She was crying so hard...and she was sooo distressed...and she was praying and praying and praying to the Lord.

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Power point Scripture Slide

“How long will you make yourself DRUNK” Eli said. “Put away your wine from you.”

But Hannah replied...

Power point Slide – Scripture

” No my Lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I poured out my soul before the Lord.”

Power point Scripture

“Do not consider your maid-servant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.”

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Then Eli answered and said “Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked Him for.

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And Hannah said, Let your maidservant find favor in your sight; “So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

CLOSING

There is something special about when we spend time with God...when we take Him all of our troubles...all of our cares...all of our hurts...and we just pour it all out to God...and then we just leave those troubles right there at His feet.

And then we can just walk away...just like Hannah...with a happy heart and a smile on our face...because we know that God hears us...that God is going to work it all out...and we can just rest in the fact that God knows....God sees...and God cares!

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FOLLOW UP

Talk about the power of prayer in the story...IN OUR LIVES

HANNAH THE STRONGER OF THE TWO...GOD ON HER SIDE

BULLIES

**Hannah – Prayer – Spending Time with God
(I wrote lesson)**

This week, I wanted to teach you....as well as remind myself...of what happens when we spend more time with God...more time in fellowship with God...just sitting down ...in a nice quiet place...and talking with God...praying to God.

So I decided that one of the women from the Bible that is an excellent example is a woman named Hannah.

Hannah is a perfect example of what FAITH and PRAYER can do.

Now Hannah didn't have an easy life...in fact...she suffered some GREAT LOWS in her life.

I want you to listen closely and at the end of our lesson, I am going to ask you what you think were some GREAT LOWS in her life...great times of sadness.

Now today, we are going to be reading from the book of FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL.

When we first start reading 1 Samuel, we learn about a man named Elkanah – L-KAY-NUH.

Elkanah had TWO wives...which was common in those days.

But having more than one wife back in those days had its share of trouble and this family was no exception.

To start with... Peninnah - PUH-NINA ...one of his wives...had two sons...who were priests...and several daughters.

Hannah...his other wife had no children...God had closed her womb...which means that not only did she NOT have children...she COULD NOT have children.

**Now back in those days, it was a great honor to have LOTS of children. So you would think that Elkanah would have loved Peninnah - PUH-NINA more than he loved Hannah.
But that was not the case...**

Elkanah loved Hannah much more than he loved Peninnah – PUN-NINA.

In fact, the Bible doesn't even tell us that he loved Peninnah – PUN-NINA at all...he may have but the Bible does not tell us that.

BUT...the Bible does tell us that he LOVED Hannah.

Which was probably the reason that Peninnah – PUN-NINA disliked Hannah ...VERY MUCH!

It fact, she was downright CRUEL to poor little Hannah!

The Bible tells us that Peninnah – PUN-NINA looked at Hannah as a RIVAL.

Which means that she felt that she was in a competition with Hannah...even though Hannah could not give Elkanah children.

Peninnah – PUN-NINA.... KNEW that Hannah suffered greatly because of not being able to have children...so guess what she did?

She used this against Hannah...she teased her and taunted her...because she was able to give Elkanah children and Hannah could not.

Now every year Elkanah would travel to the city of Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to God.

When he made his sacrifice...which means when he killed a lamb...or whatever he used to make a sacrifice to God...the Bible tells us that he could give portions to Peninnah – PUN-NINA and her sons and daughters.

BUT...he gave a double portion to Hannah because he loved her so much.

Now what do you think happened when Peninnah – PUN-NINA saw Elkanah giving Hannah a double portion?

I bet this made her even more angry and Hannah.... even more cruel to her.

She probably teased and taunted her even more...don't you think?

The Bible tells us that year after year...when they went to Shiloh... Peninnah – PUH-NINA cruelly teased and taunted Hannah.

She wasn't just mean...she was cruel...just like a BIG BULLY.

She would have Hannah so upset that she would cry...and not eat.

But guess what? The Bible doesn't tell us of one single time that Hannah was cruel to Peninnah – PUH-NINA.

Instead, Hannah took her hurt...her anger...her frustrations straight to GOD.

When Elkanah noticed how sad Hannah was...he tried to comfort her. He tried to reassure her that he loved her even though they had no children.

"Why is your heart so sad...and why do you cry so much Hannah..." Am I not better to you than ten sons?

Apparently Elkanah did not know that Peninnah – PUH-NINA was so mean to Hannah.

And Hannah must have NEVER told on her.

Peninnah – PUH-NINA must have been sneaky and cruel to Hannah when Elkanah wasn't around...just like a BIG BULLY.

They can be mean and cruel when no one else is around...but when someone else is around...they act all nice and sweet.

Being a bully is NOT a good thing to do...You may think that your big and tough but you're not.

A Bully is really someone who is simply insecure about themselves...so they pick on those who are quiet...or meek...smaller...or gently of spirit.

Don't EVER...EVER...EVER be a bully to someone!

You don't know what that person is going through in their lives...you don't know the pain or the suffering that they are going through...the heartache...the loneliness.

**And your bullying may be the very thing that pushes them over the edge.
If someone is bullying you...or if something is bothering you, don't sit in silence...tell
someone!**

**Just like Hannah...she told her troubles to God of course...but later, she also tells her troubles
to someone else.**

**After she talked with Elkanah...she ate a little food...and she went to the temple to talk with
God.**

**Did you know that it is OK to tattle to God? To talk with God and to tell Him EVERYTHING that
is going on in your life?**

You CAN...and Hannah did exactly that!!!

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Questions (Prior to story)

Sometimes someone we love gets sick. Can we ask God to make them well?

Have you ever lost something and ask God to help you find it?

Suppose Mommy and Daddy need a new car. Does God want them to ask Him to give them one?

Can we pray about ALL the things we need?

Yes and God is happy when we trust Him to answer our prayers.

Who are we talking to when we pray?

Does God hear us?

Suppose we only pray in our mind, not out loud, does he still hear us?

When can we pray?

Is there anything that I cannot talk to God about?

Why does God want to answer our prayers? Because he loves us, and He wants what's best for us.

Questions (After the story)

Who prayer in our story? Hannah

What did she ask God to give her? A baby boy

Can we ask God for things we need? Yes

When can we pray—just at bedtime or before we eat?

Can we pray while we're working or playing?

Can I talk to God while I'm driving my car? Yes, and I don't even need to close my eyes? He always hears us.



Memory Verse
“Unto thee will I pray”
Psalm 5:2b

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God hears me when I pray









Hannah



Hannah

Before story:

Game:

Whisper Game

As the children are seated for story time. Ask them to sit very quietly and listen to you.

Whisper softly "Can you hear me when I whisper?"

Lower your voice and whisper even softer. "Can you hear me now?"

End by simply moving your lips without any sound. And then ask is anyone heard you.

"Even though you couldn't hear me, someone did. Who is it? God He hears us when no one else can.

He even knows what we are thinking. Let's play a whisper game.

Explain that you are going to whisper something into someone's ear. That child will then whisper the same thing into the next person's ear. Continue until it comes back to you. Then repeat what that person told you.

Stress that even though we had trouble hearing, God never does. He always hears us.





Prayer Rock

I'm a little prayer rock...and this is what I'll do
Just put me on your pillow till the day is through
Then turn back the covers and climb into your bed
And whack...your little prayer rock will hit you on the head
Then you will remember as the day is through
to kneel and say your prayers as you wanted to.
Then when you are finished just dump me on the floor.
I'll stay there through nighttime to give you help once more.
When you get up next morning clunk—I stub your toe.
So you will remember your morning prayers before you go.
Put me back upon your pillow when your bed is made.
And your clever little prayer rock will continue in your aid.
Because your heavenly Father cares and loves you so.
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Prayer Rock

Prior to class:

Gather several small rocks, one for each child

Cut out a square of fabric big enough to go around the rock and gather together to put a string around it. Can use pinking shears to make fabric look nicer

Cut strings about 6" long for each child

Run copies of "Prayer Rock" poem and punch a hole in the corner of poem

Child's job

Place the rock in the center of fabric

Pull fabric tight and tie a string around it.

Thread one end of the string thru the poem and tie string into a knot.

Tie string into a bow

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