

## **God Answers Hannah's Prayers (I wrote this story)**

**Last week, we learned about a woman named Hannah. Hannah was a very sad woman. She was sad because she did not have any children of her own.**

**One day while at the Lord's House, Hannah prayed and asked God to give her a little baby boy. She promised God that when the child was old enough, she would bring him back to the Temple where he would live from that moment on. He was to live there and do the work of the Lord.**

**While at the Temple a priest named Eli saw Hannah and he told her to "Go home, May the God of Israel give you what you asked for."**

**When Hannah went home, sure enough, she had a little baby boy. When the baby was born, Hannah said "His name is Samuel because I asked the Lord for him."**

**Every year, Elkanah, her husband went to Shiloh to offer his sacrifices and keep the promise he had made to God. But one time Hannah did not go with him. She told him, “When the boy is old enough to eat solid food, I will take him to Shiloh. Then I will give him to the Lord, and he will always live there.”**

**Elkanah, Hannah’s husband, said to her. “Do what you think is best. You may stay home until the boy is old enough to eat.”**

**So Hannah stayed that year with her son until he was old enough to eat.**

**When Samuel was old enough to eat, Hannah took him to Shiloh. After they had prepared a sacrifice, Hannah took Samuel to find the priest Eli.**

**When she found Eli, she said, “Sir, I am the woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me.**

**Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life.”**

**Hannah prayed once again in the Temple. She said “The Lord has filled my heart with joy; I feel very strong in the Lord. I can laugh at my enemies; I am glad because you have helped me!” She prayed and praised God for a long time. Giving thanks for the wonderful son that God had given to her.**

**When Elkanah and Hannah went home, they left Samuel at the Temple to live with Eli and to serve the Lord throughout his entire life.**

**I am sure that it was a sad day for Hannah. Having to leave your child when you go somewhere is a hard thing to do. However, Hannah knew that she was doing the right thing so she was happy for the time that she had with little Samuel.**

**Every year when Hannah and Elkanah came back to Shiloh to offer a sacrifice to the Lord, Hannah would see her precious little Samuel.**

**And each year, Hannah would sew Samuel a new little coat. I am sure she worked very, very hard to make his little coats special. She probably used all her best materials and spent many, many hours at work. She wanted to show Samuel just how much she loved him. And every year, he had grown bigger and bigger and bigger, just as all little children do.**

**Each year when Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife Hannah, he would say, “May the Lord repay you with children through Hannah to take the place of the boy Hannah prayed for and gave back to the Lord.”**

**The Lord heard Eli’s prayers and he was kind to Hannah. Once she was unable to have children but the Lord blessed her with a total of three sons and two daughters.**

**I am sure that Hannah was filled with Joy just as she had said. How happy she must have been.**

**As for little Samuel.... Well, he stayed in the temple with Eli, he did the Lord's work, he ALWAYS obeyed the Lord, and he was very pleasing to the Lord and the people.**

## God Answers Hannah's Prayers

Last week, we learned about a woman named Hannah. Hannah was a very sad woman. She was sad because she did not have any children of her own.

One day while at the Lord's House, Hannah prayed and asked God to give her a little baby boy. She promised God that; If He gave her a child, she would bring that child back to live in the temple and serve the Lord.

While at the Temple a priest named Eli saw Hannah. He told her to get up and be sad no more, because God had heard her prayers and would answer.

When Hannah went home, sure enough, she had a little baby boy. Can anyone remember what the little boy's name was? That's right, it was Samuel which means; I asked the Lord for him."

That was a perfect name for him wasn't it? Samuel, I asked the Lord for him.

Today, we are going to learn a little more about this special lady Hannah and her very special son Samuel.

Well, soon after Samuel was born, it was time to take the yearly trip back to Shiloh to offer sacrifices to God.

Remember, Shiloh was where Hannah was when she prayed in the temple and asked God for a little baby boy.

Hannah always went with Elkanah on these trips, but on this particular journey to Shiloh, she told Elkanah that she was not going to go.

"I am going to stay with Samuel until he is old enough to eat on his own" she said.

"When he is old enough, then I will take him and leave him with Eli just as I have promised" she finished.

"Do what you think is best, you may stay home until the boy is old enough to eat." replied Elkanah. But, just as she had promised, when Samuel was old enough, she took the trip to Shiloh with Elkanah. She took her son along with a three-year old bull, one half bushel of flour, and a leather bag filled with wine.

After they had killed the bull for the sacrifice, Hannah went to find Eli the priest.

When she found him, she said, "Sir, I am the woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life."

How hard do you think it was for Hannah to give her only child up?

I am sure it was very, very hard.

But do you know what Hannah did?

She rejoiced and praised God.

Hannah said "The Lord has filled my heart with joy; I feel very strong in the Lord.

I can laugh at my enemies; I am glad because you have helped me!"

She prayed and praised God for a long time. Giving thanks for the wonderful son that God had given to her.

And then...it was time to go.

Although Hannah praised and thanked God for little Samuel, I am sure that part of her was sad as well.

Having to leave your child behind when you go somewhere is a hard thing to do. However, Hannah knew that she was doing the right thing so she was happy for the time that she had with little Samuel.

Now when Hannah left Samuel at the temple, do you think that she ever got to see him again? Of course she did...because every year...they made the trip to Shiloh to sacrifice and worship God. So Hannah got to see Samuel every year.

I am sure that Hannah counted the days until she got to see little Samuel again. In fact, I know that she was excited and that she planned for that day each year when she would get to see her little son Samuel.

The Bible tells us that Samuel wore a linen holy vest. And that every year, his mother made him a little coat which she gave to him when she visited the town of Shiloh.

Each coat was more special than the year before.

In order to make a new coat, Hannah had to have planned in advance and worked for a long, long time.

They didn't have sewing machines in Bible times. So Hannah had to stitch every little stitch by hand. And I am sure that she put love into each stitch.

I bet she used all her best fabrics and she probably spent many, many hours at work.

She wanted to show Samuel just how much she loved him.

And each year, when she visited Samuel, he had grown bigger and bigger and bigger, just as all little children do.

Every year when Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife Hannah, he would say, "May the Lord repay you with children through Hannah to take the place of the boy Hannah prayed for and gave back to the Lord."

The Lord heard Eli's prayers and he was kind to Hannah.

Once she was unable to have children but the Lord bless Hannah with a total of three sons and two daughters.

I am sure that with each child, Hannah's heart was filled with joy.

And when she got to see her little boy Samuel, she must a been very, very excited.

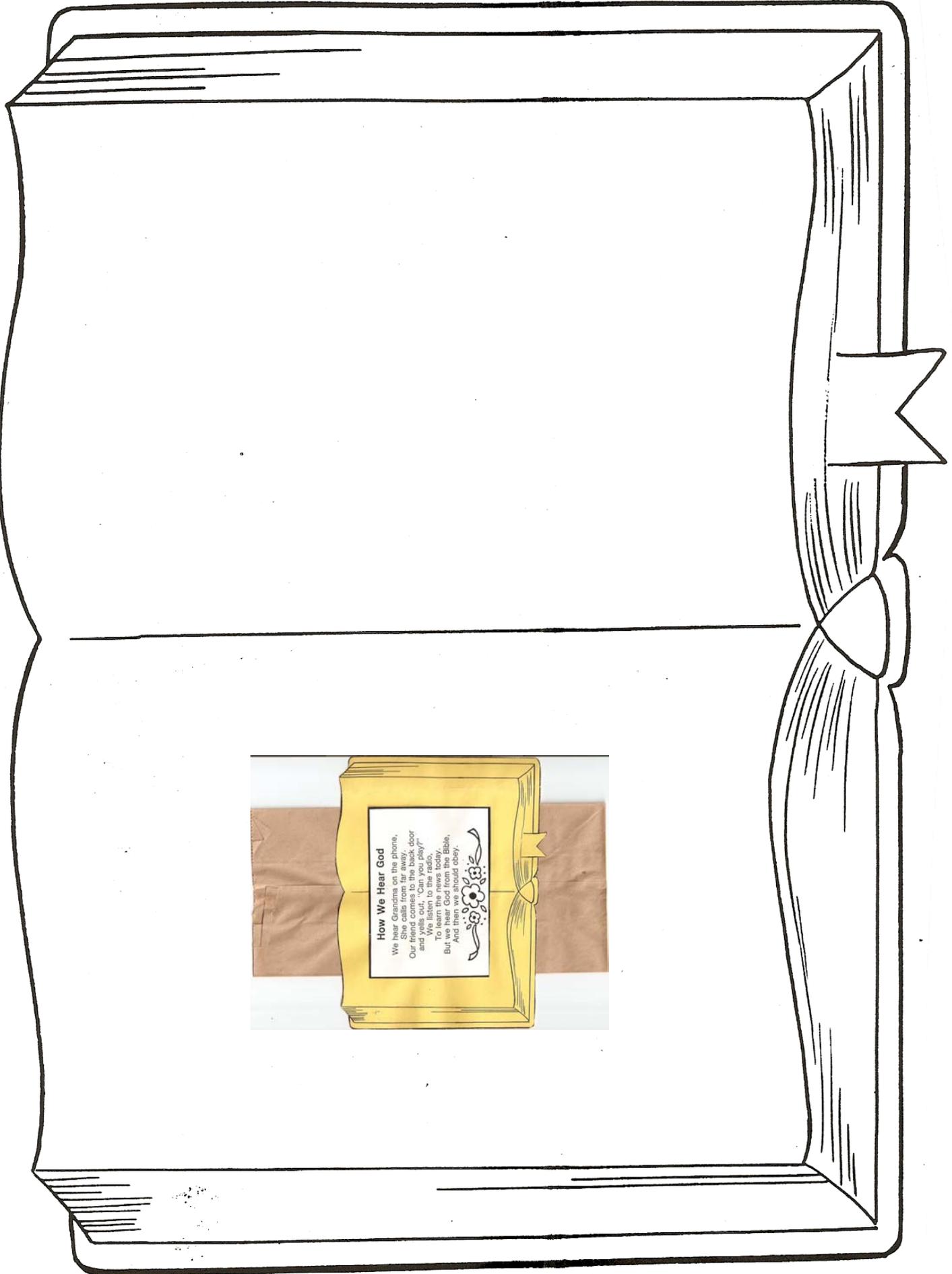
As for little Samuel.... Well, he stayed in the temple with Eli.

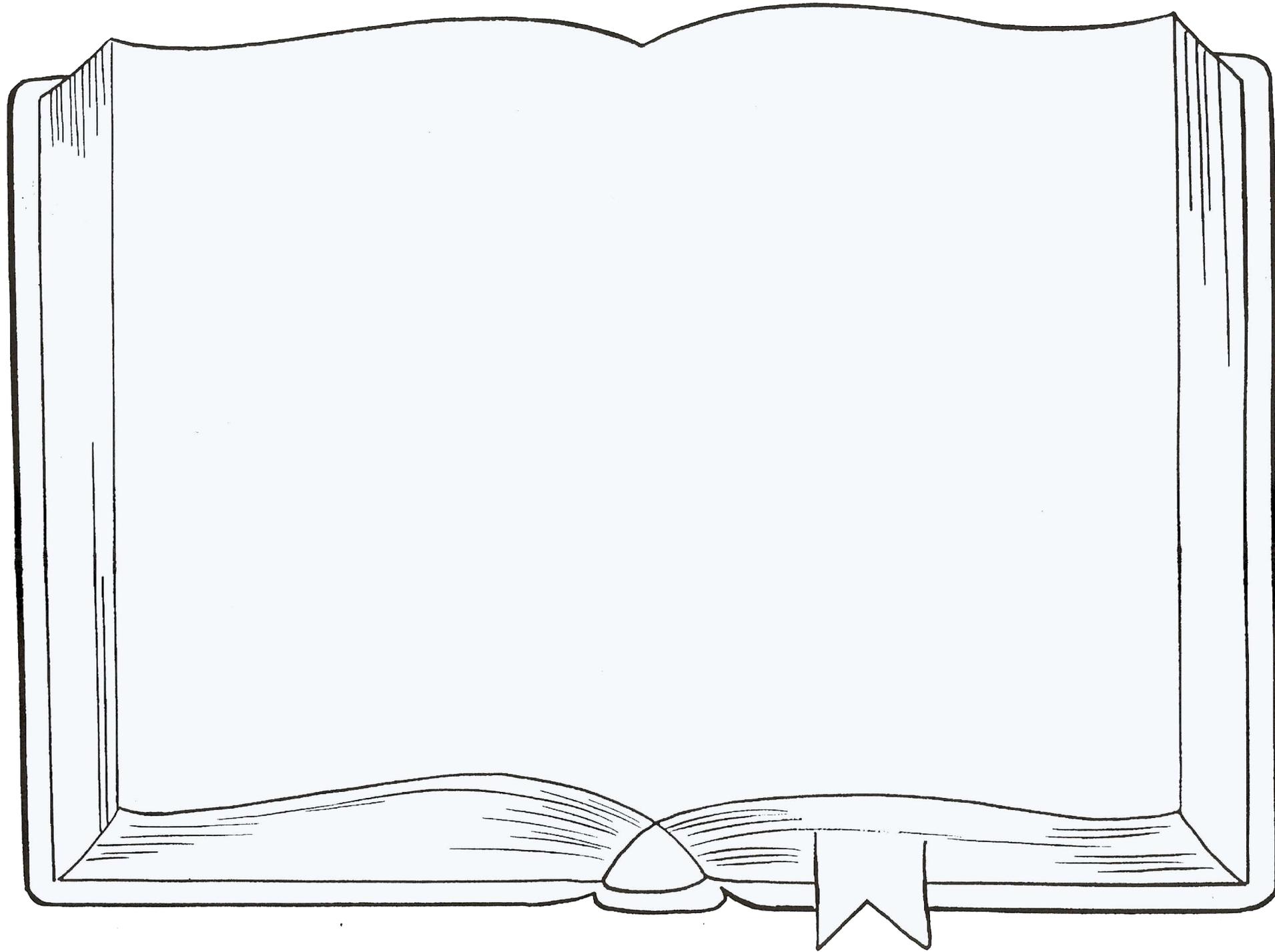
He did the Lord's work.

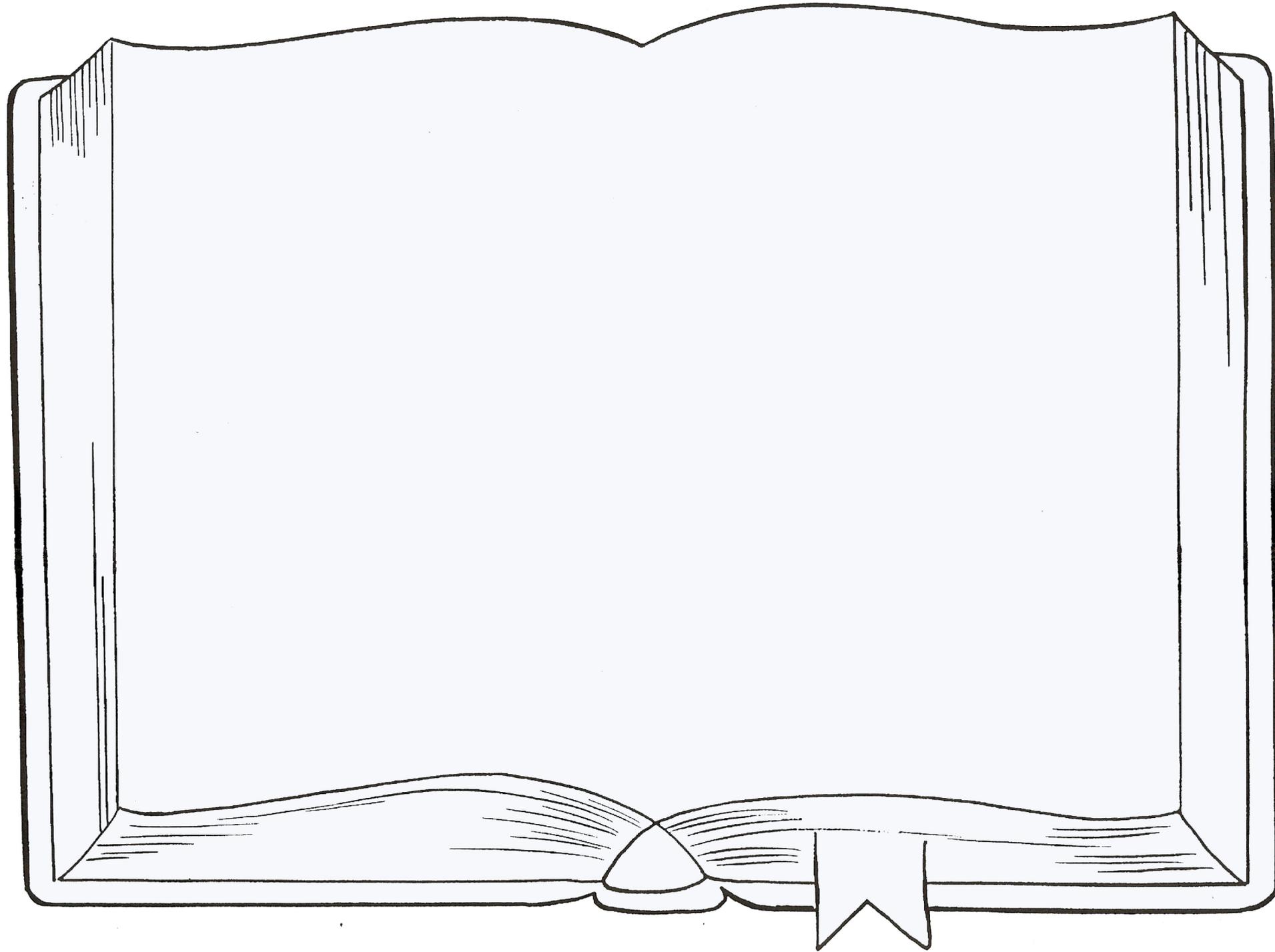
He ALWAYS obeyed the Lord.

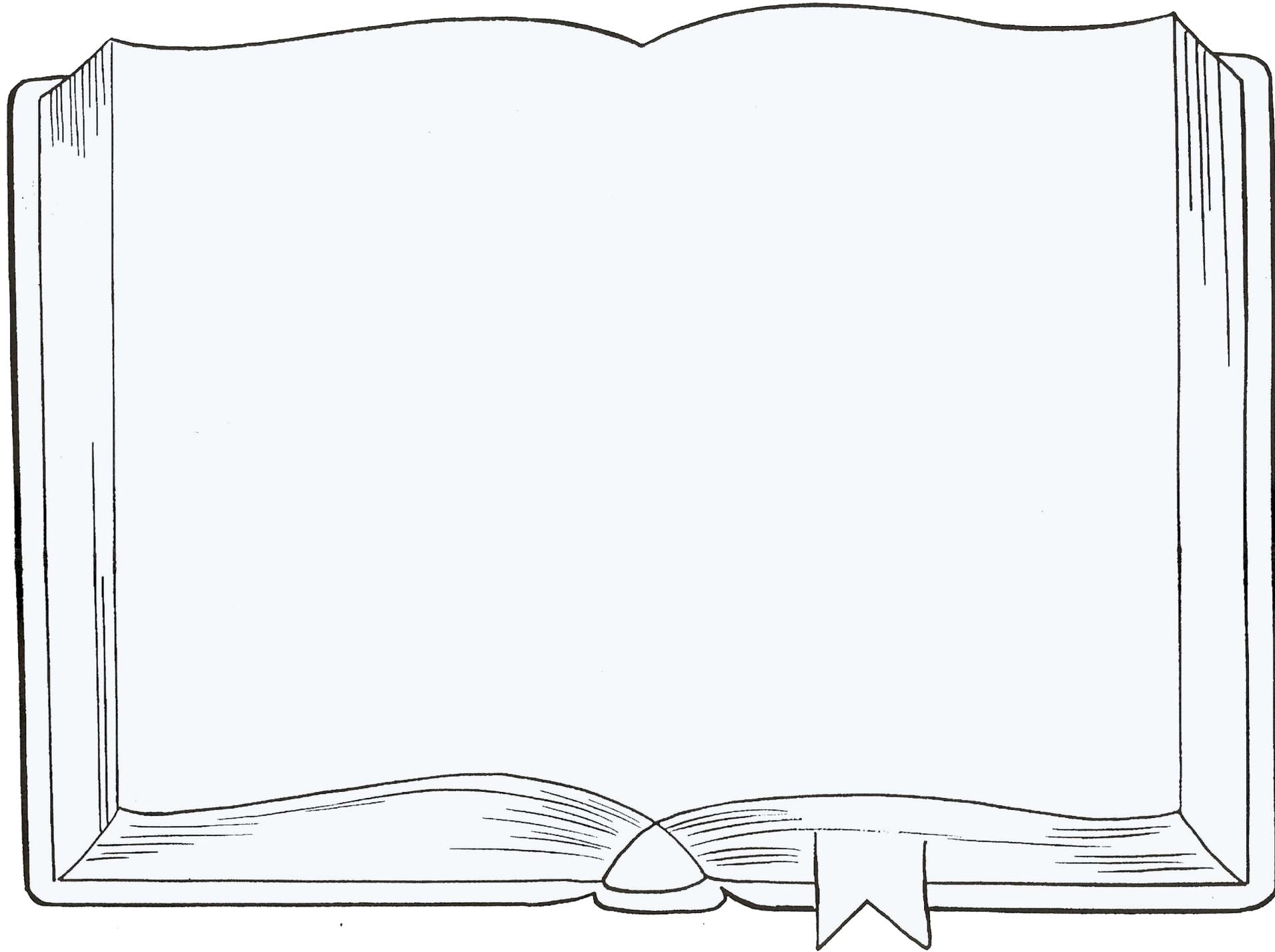
And he was very pleasing to the Lord and the people.

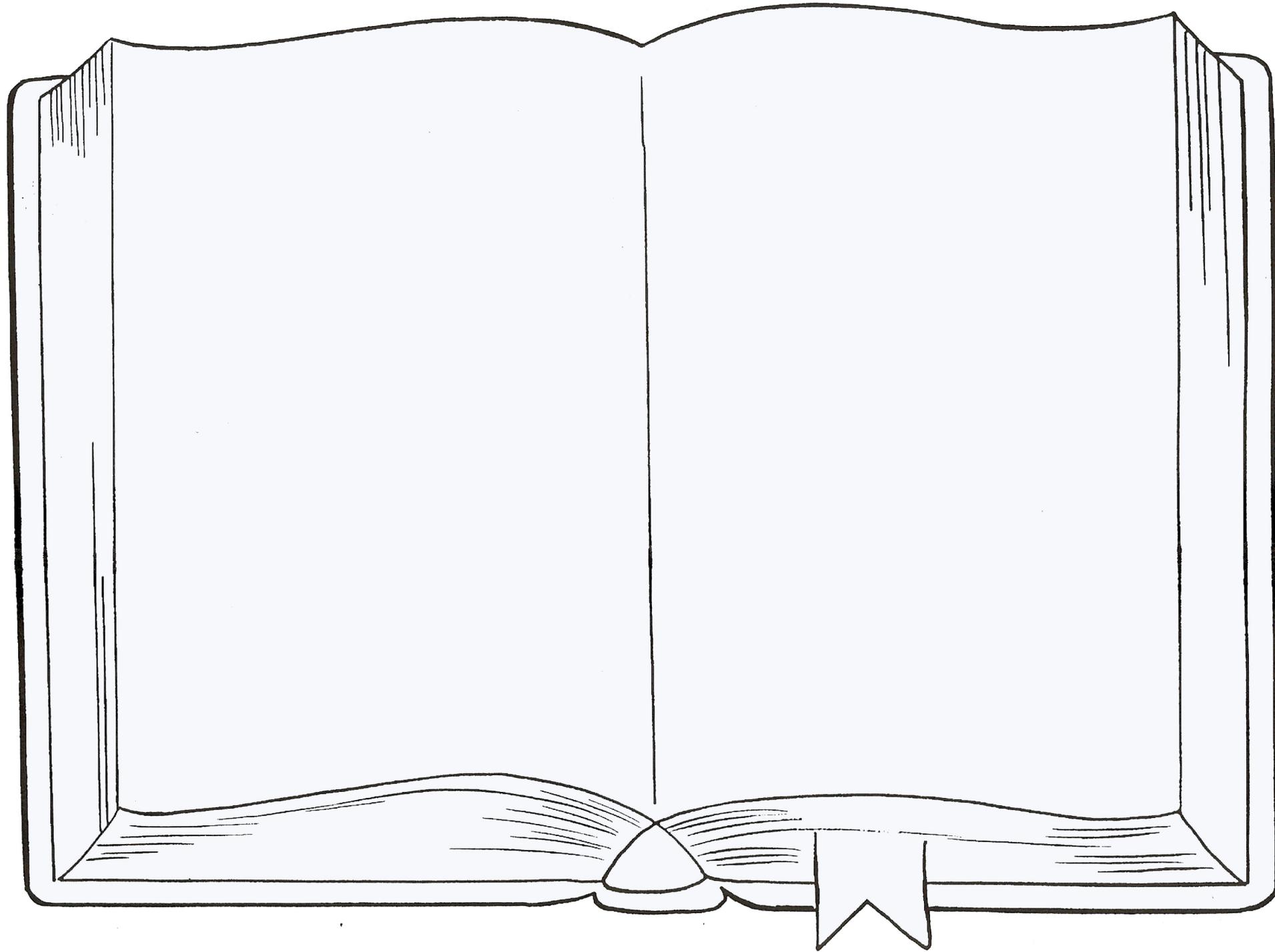
Next week, we will learn some more about the little boy called....Samuel.











# How We Hear God

We hear Grandma on the phone,  
She calls from far away.

Our friends come to the back door  
and shouts "Can you come and play?"

We listen to the radio,  
To learn the news today.

But we hear God from the Bible,  
And then we should obey.

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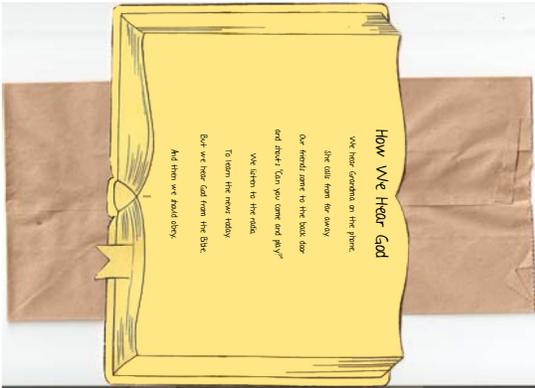
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**How We Hear God**

We hear God in the Bible.  
We hear God in the church.  
We hear God in the world.  
We hear God in the Bible.  
We hear God in the church.  
We hear God in the world.  
We hear God in the Bible.  
We hear God in the church.  
We hear God in the world.





**Hannah brought Samuel to meet Eli.**



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## Samuel's Robe

Ahead of time, cut out the robe pattern from felt. Gather various items for the child to use to decorate their coat. Buttons, sequins, rick-rack, wallpaper scraps, etc.

Cut 12" pieces of yarn to attach to robe as a hanger. Punch two holes in the top corners of robe. Run copies of the "Samuel's Robe" paper.

Distribute a robe to each child.

Set a small container filled with various items at each table.

Have the children glue the "Samuel's Robe" paper to the bottom (hem) of the robe.

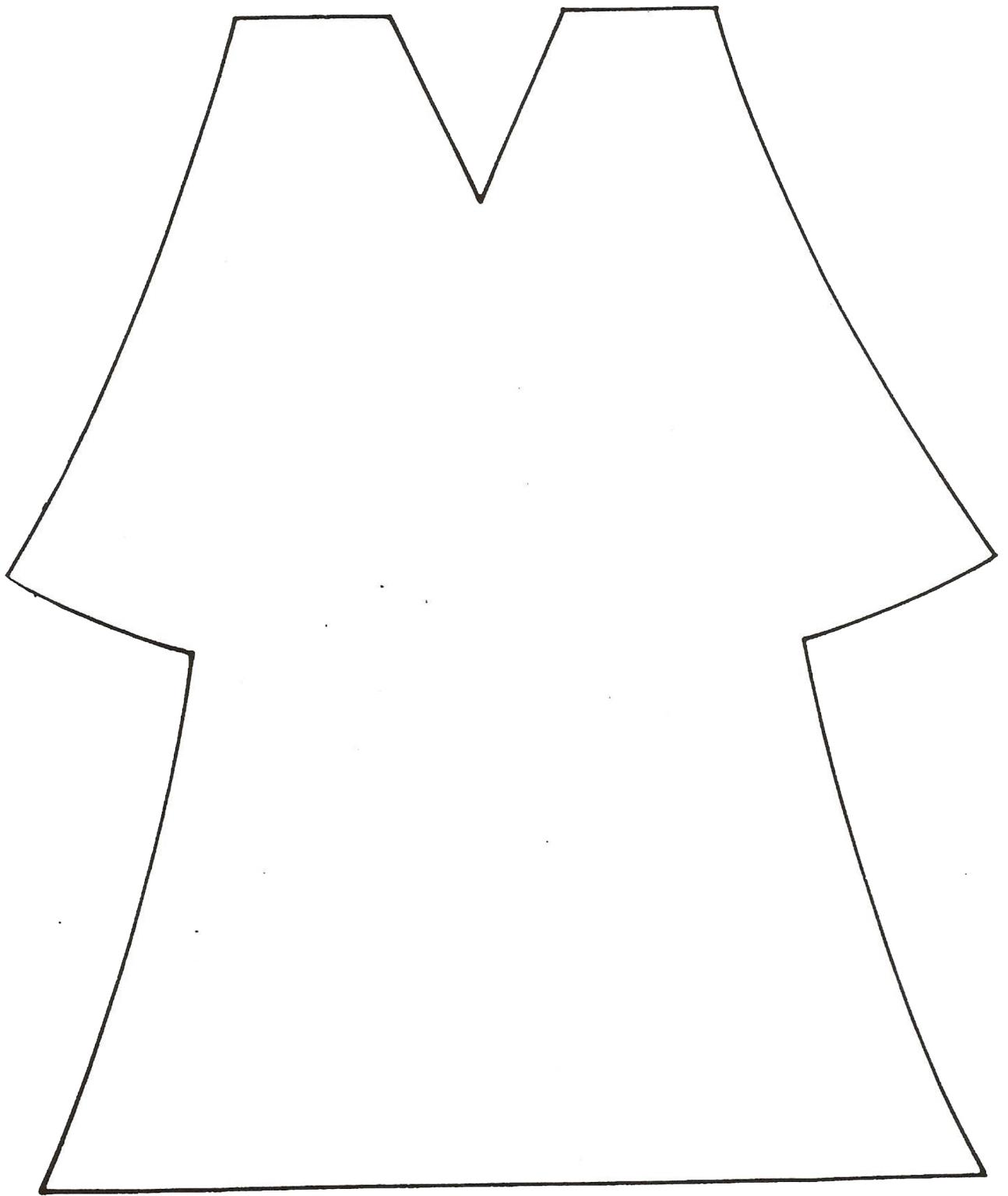
Show the children how to glue items to their robe.

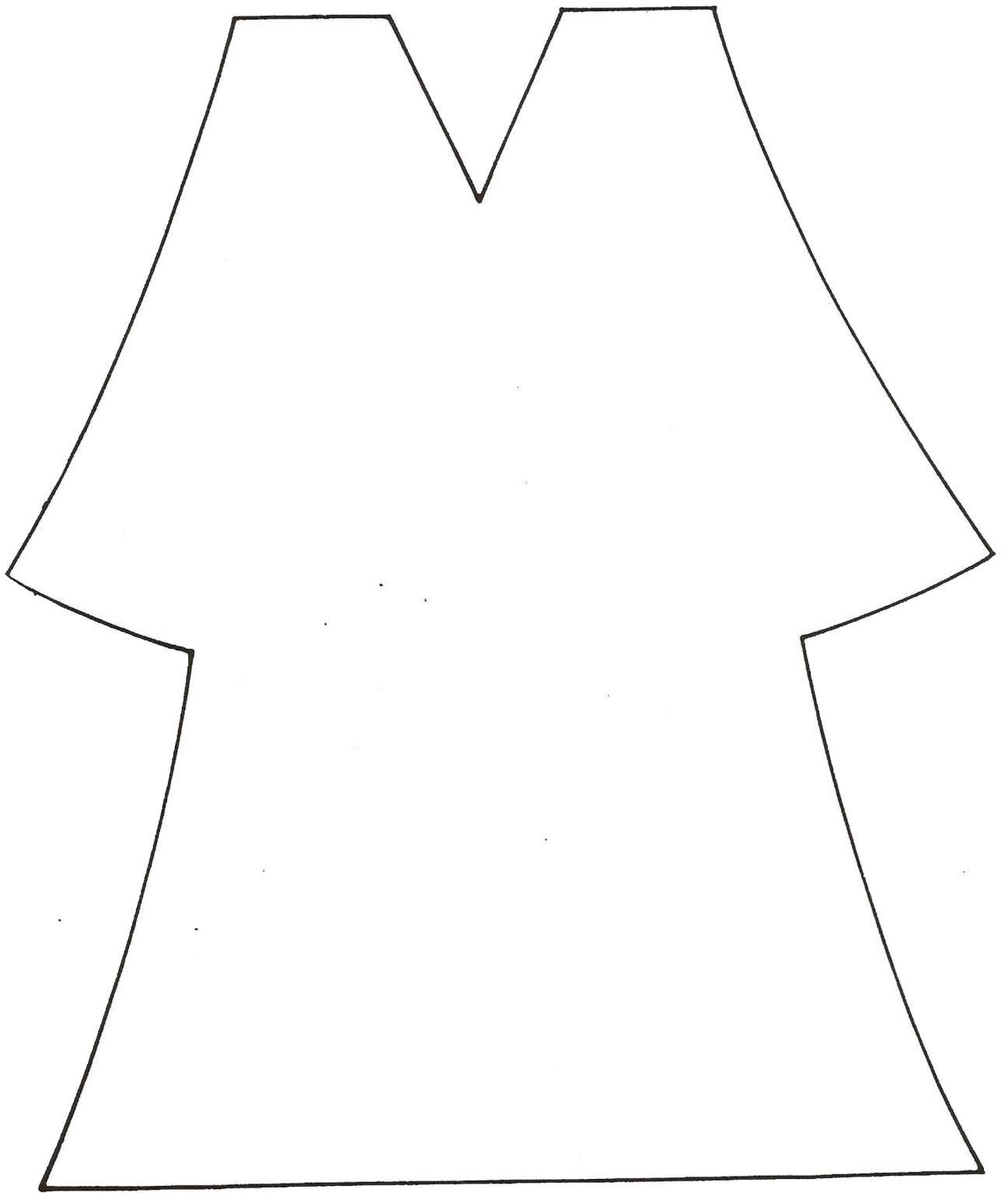
Remind the children that Samuel's mother brought him a new robe each year. Each robe was different and very beautiful because Samuel's mother wanted him to have clothes that fit.

Encourage the children to see how many different designs they can come up with.

Attach the yarn to the robes so that they can be hung on a nail, doorknob, or hook

Note: You can make the robe from construction paper or cardboard if desired. Various items do stick better to the construction paper and cardboard.





#### **SAMUEL'S ROBE**

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