

Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!

This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.

We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities, and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.

The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.

These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with family or friends via the internet.

These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!**



With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

This week's Bible story is:

Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 1 verses 1-11 &
17-18



From



and



Illustration by
lambsongs.co.nz via freebibleimages.org

Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

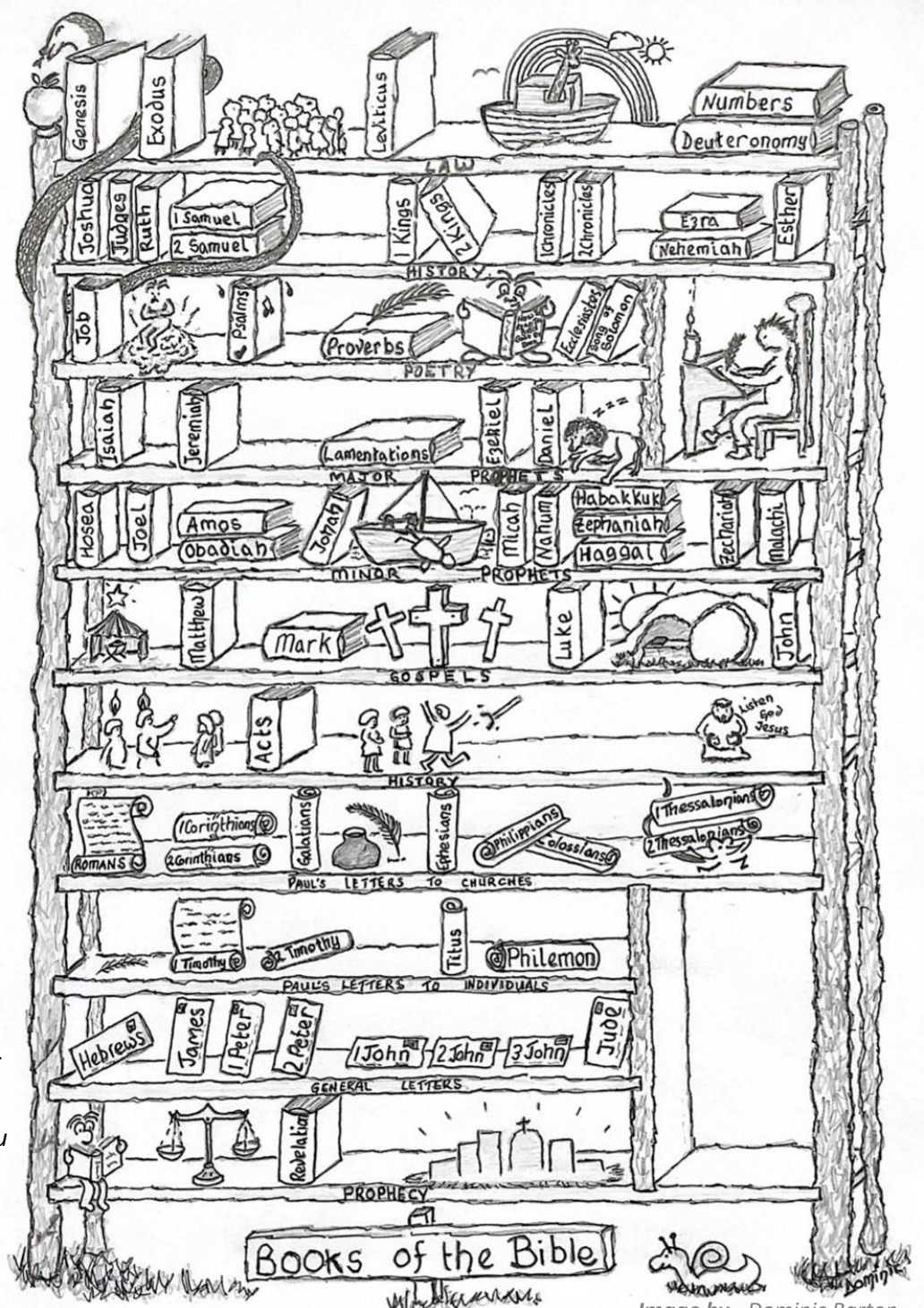
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.

You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.



Bible context: 1 Samuel

The book of 1 Samuel was written around 900 BCE by a few authors, including Samuel himself. It was originally a very long scroll which became two separate books (1 and 2 Samuel) in the Bible. The book tells the story of Samuel who was born to Hannah. Hannah prayed for a baby and promised God that if she had a son, she would give him back to God to serve in the tabernacle.

This story helps us to explore what it means to pray to God and wait for the answer.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

Hannah and God by Saddleback Kids https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvVfSeG_1Ts

The story of Hannah by Stick Figure Scriptures <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dNWtt6LLjc>

The story told in Poem and pictures by Fishnet Bible Stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2K3-cnfDPc&t=63s>

Children retelling the story by PursueGod Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmdZlvAAv1M>

Animation by I Share <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPrR8JMisTQ>

Dance and Sing

Ask, Seek, Knock by Hillsong Kids

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3vXskh11iq&list=RDJ3vXskh11iq&start_radio=1

Pray by Doug Horley https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEBwPW_v0Y0

May you find peace by Fischy Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STSrYFHJHbM>

Give it to God by The Erwins <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqgxS2jccfM>

Pray by Vineyard Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7iP09OqPFq>

The Story: 1 Samuel 1 verses 1-11 and 17-18
(from *The International Children's Bible*)

There was a man named Elkanah son of Jeroham. He was from Ramathaim in the mountains of Ephraim. Elkanah was from the family of Zuph. (Jeroham was Elihu's son. Elihu was Tohu's son. And Tohu was the son of Zuph from the family group of Ephraim.) Elkanah had two wives. One was named Hannah, and the other was named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

Every year Elkanah left his town Ramah and went up to Shiloh. There he worshiped the Lord of heaven's armies and offered sacrifices to him. Shiloh was where Hophni and Phinehas served as priests of the Lord. They were the sons of Eli. When Elkanah offered sacrifices, he always gave a share of the meat to his wife Peninnah. He also gave shares of the meat to her sons and daughters. But Elkanah always gave a special share of the meat to Hannah. He did this because he loved Hannah and because the Lord had made Hannah unable to have children. Peninnah would upset Hannah and make her feel bad. She did this because the Lord had made Hannah unable to have children. This happened every year when they went up to the Tent of the Lord at Shiloh. Peninnah would upset Hannah until Hannah would cry and not eat anything. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why won't you eat? Why are you sad? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

Once, after they had eaten their meal in Shiloh, Hannah got up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair near the entrance to the Lord's Holy Tent. Hannah was very sad. She cried much and prayed to the Lord. She made a promise. She said, "Lord of heaven's armies, see how bad I feel. Remember me! Don't forget me. If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life. And no one will ever use a razor to cut his hair."

Eli answered, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of him."

Hannah said, "I want to be pleasing to you always." Then she left and ate something. She was not sad anymore.

Scripture quotations are taken from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

Prayers and Answers

In this story we see Hannah praying to God for a son and God answering her prayers. She had waited a long time.

When we pray, do we always get what we ask for?

Sometimes the answer is yes, sometimes it is not yet, wait; sometimes the answer is no and sometimes it can feel that there is no answer at all or that we get something completely different.

Here are a few stories of people who prayed and waited....

Share them together and share your own stories of prayers and answers to prayer.

Story One – a prayer that was answered with a YES

Nathan was a boy who could not sleep. He usually was a good sleeper, but recently he was waking around midnight and could not get back to sleep. It was beginning to make him very tired and anxious. He spoke with his Sunday school teacher who told him that she is often still awake at that time. She offered to pray for him every night at midnight, that God would be with him and help him to sleep soundly, and he agreed to pray too. The next Sunday they chatted again. Nathan excitedly said that he had slept through every night that week and was feeling much better. He thanked his Sunday school teacher for praying and thanked God for being with him and helping him to sleep. This continued for a few weeks, until Nathans's sleep pattern was back to normal.

Story Two – a prayer that was answered with a not yet, wait

Stacey and her brother used to be very close. But the family had a fall out and Stacey hadn't seen her brother for many years. She missed him terribly and prayed for him often, asking God to bring him back into her life again. Many years went by (over 20 in total) with Stacey praying to see her brother again. She felt that God was saying it will happen, be patient. After over 20 years of praying and waiting, Stacey's brother made contact. He was getting married and wanted her to be there. What a wonderful day it was! Many years of waiting and praying; now they were brother and sister, together again.

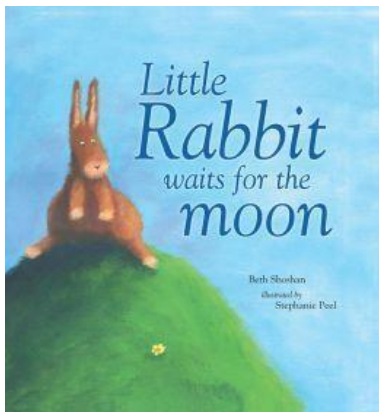
Story Three – a prayer that was answered with a No

Jem had to move back in with her parents while she saved to get a mortgage. She had everything sorted, she prayed for a mortgage so that she could live nearby her parents and was met with a firm no. Application for mortgage declined. She didn't understand why, until a few months later when she got a job and moved to a totally different area, following God. If she had got the mortgage, she never would have moved away and would have missed the most memorable time of her life.

Story Four – a prayer that was answered not as expected

Lydia wanted to work for the church. When she first started, she worked for free. She was praying for money and expecting God to answer as he had previously done, with people giving her a financial gift. Instead, she was offered a job of cleaning the church kitchens and toilets each week. It gave her a regular income and was pretty well paid; not the answer she wanted (she didn't enjoy scrubbing loos) or expected but was way better.

Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme

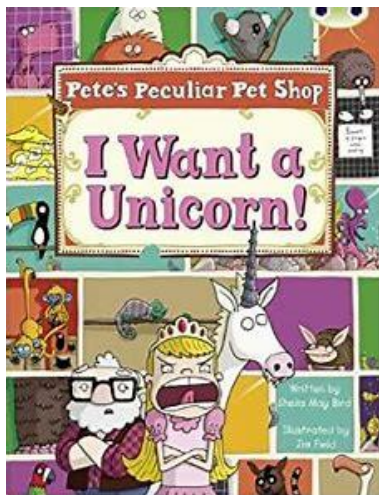


'Little Rabbit Waits for the Moon'

by **Beth Shoshan and Stephanie Peel**

Little Rabbit is very tired but is waiting for the moon to come. How long will he have to wait? How hard will he find waiting?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cw62h6HUZY&t=26s>



'I Want a Unicorn' by Sheila May Bird

The princess always gets what she asks for. Now she wants a unicorn. She might learn that you don't always get what you want.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53N_N6uZDjA

[https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1638/09/Families on Faith Adventures - Week 49 -
_Reconnecting With Our Parent God Lent 4 .pdf](https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1638/09/Families_on_Faith_Adventures_-_Week_49_-_Reconnecting_With_Our_Parent_God_Lent_4_.pdf)

Table Top Discussions

Each day over a mealtime, have a quick conversation. Here are a few questions to get you going.

- *Share your own stories of times you have prayed to God and what the answer was.*
- *Why does it seem that some people get the answers to prayer that they want, and others don't?*
- *Do you think that Hannah believed her prayer for a son would be answered? Why did she promise to give him back to the temple if she wanted a son so much?*
- *Have you ever made a bargain/deal with God? Can we persuade God to do things by making promises?*
- *What are the things that you most want to have/see in life? What are the things you always pray for?*

What's in the box?



What treasures can you find to put in the box for your little ones to explore?

Perhaps older children could help find the things.



Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.



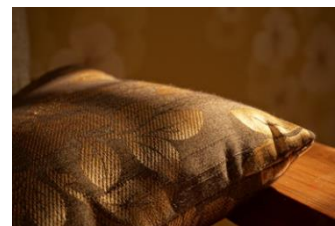
Something with rainbow colours
for God's promise



Playdough / Plasticine



A Russian doll / doll



A cushion / pillow

Pray Together

Flag Prayers



You will need rectangles of scrap material or plain paper, scissors, pegs and a pen. Choose a 'Big Problem' to pray about. Make an image for your prayer flag (will you use paint, rubbish, stickers, stamps, pens?). Add words if you want to. Peg your flags on the washing line or on a piece of string.



House Prayers



Choose someone you would like to pray for this week.



Draw their house and then cut it out.

Put it on your fridge, by your bed or on a door to remind you to pray for them every day this week.

Pray Together

Swaddling Prayers

Swaddling is a way of making a baby feel safe and comforted by wrapping them in material that feels as though they are being hugged. In Bible times, babies were often wrapped like this.

Use a doll or a teddy and a long piece of material or a scarf.

Each time you wrap the material around the doll, pray for a different age group in your church family.

1. *Babies*
2. *Children*
3. *Young people*
4. *Adults*
5. *Older people*

Cuddle the doll and thank God for loving everyone!



Dear God,

Thank you for everyone in our church family:

The oldest and the youngest;

The loudest and the quietest;

The shortest and the tallest.

Amen



I wonder how God has answered your prayers?

I wonder if God always answers our prayers?

I wonder how Samuel felt going to live with Eli?



I wonder what you long for?

I wonder why it was so important to Hannah to have a child?

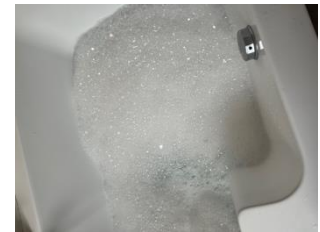


To Do Together...



Bubble Beards

You will need: Bubble bath or shaving foam



What you do:

Create a beard or funny hairstyle in the bath or using shaving foam, I wonder what style you will go for?

In the story Hannah said she would never cut Samuels' hair or have him shaved as a way of honouring God's answer to her prayer.





To Do Together...

Prayer Stars

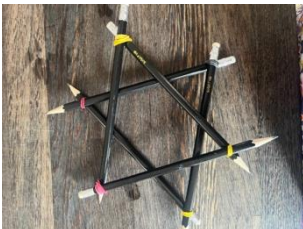
You will need: Six sticks the same size
Small elastic bands/string
Tissue paper and glue/water mix - optional



What you do:

Create a star using sticks or pencils by making two triangles and joining them with either elastic bands or string.

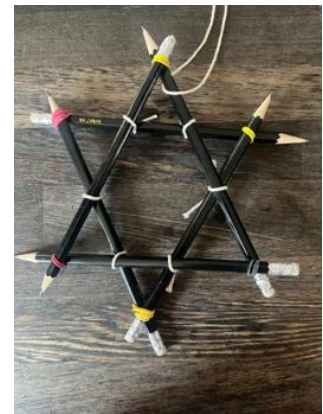
If you want to create a solid star, layer two tissues on either side of the star and gently paint them with a mixture of half water half glue, leave it to dry overnight and then trim it. You can then write your prayer on it.



Write or draw your prayers on ribbons or tags and tie them onto your star.

Hang your prayer stars up somewhere, for the wind to blow it and the holy spirit to move over it.

What do you hope for? What prayers are you making today?



Blow Away Art

You will need:
Gather some things you find outside

What you do:

Create an image from the things you have found and then let the wind blow it away.

Sometimes we have to let go of things and let the wind of the spirit take it and let it be heard.

We then need to wait for an answer, it may be yes, it may be no, it may be something different and unexpected just like our stories today.



Walking the Way

Our Walking the Way
Challenge this time is...

Everyday Faith:

Create a table for the week, perhaps one like this:

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | |

Hannah kept her promise to God. She said that if God were to give her a baby, she would dedicate it back to God and she did.

As a family, think of something that you could all promise to do, write one thing for each day, it could be tidying something, being kind to someone, reading your Bible. Whatever you chose, you need to try really hard to keep that promise and encourage each other to stick to it. Each time you manage to keep that promise, tick it off your table. If you enjoyed doing it for a week, you could extend it for longer..... I wonder how long you could keep it up for?

Scrapbooking:

Hannah named her child Samuel, which means 'Heard of God'. In your scrapbook, use your best pens, crayons to write and decorate your name. Find out what your name means and write that in too. Alternatively, you could print out what it means and stick it in your book.

Take it Further:

Hannah prayed reverently and with perseverance. There are many websites, books and resources designed to help families follow Hannah's example and pray together. Here are a couple of websites for you to explore.

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/a-new-prayer-resource-for-children/>

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/5-ways-to-pray-together-as-a-family/>

and this is a great resource for you to work through together as a family:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Our-Family-GodVenture-Victoria-Beech/dp/0956385907>

Adventurers Go!

You've shared together, now share with us!

Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges - or dress up to make a tableau of the Big Story and take a photo to send in.

Email your photos to: lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.

Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Remember you can find more resources on our website:
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.

Created for you by

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