



date

1.12



“ WE NEED THE ALMIGHTY GOD TO HELP GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO FOLLOW AND SHOW HIS GOOD EXAMPLE. ”

Inspire (for parents)

Have you ever heard the saying, “garbage in, garbage out”? I recently experienced this firsthand when my six-year-old daughter spent a day with her older cousins. She loves playing with her cousins, and she was looking forward to a day full of excitement.

When I picked her up, I asked her the usual questions, “How was your day?” “What did you do?” etc. Her answers were uneventful. However, later that evening the true reality of the day came out.

As I was putting my daughter to bed, she began to tell me a story. The details of the story are not important; however, the attitude behind the story is where the issue came in.

As she was ending her story she said, “Oh, forget it, Mom; you just don’t understand. You don’t get it.” Although the room was dark, I imagined her rolling her eyes. I began to wonder where this disrespectful attitude came from. Then it hit me, her older cousins had modeled it for her throughout the day. It didn’t take more than a few hours of exposure for her to pick up an unloving, worldly attitude

of impatience and pride. Wow! I began to wonder how as a parent I could model God’s Truth in such a way that counteracts all that my children will be exposed to in this world.

Fortunately, before she fell asleep, I was able to ask her if her cousins had displayed a bad attitude while she was with them earlier that day. She said, “Yes,” and smiled because she recognized she was copying the behavior she had seen. We prayed together, recognizing that we would need the Almighty to help give us the strength to follow and show His good example.

by Arika Cazale

Getting Started <

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1–3
(Hannah’s Prayer and Samuel)

Main Point: God Is Almighty

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

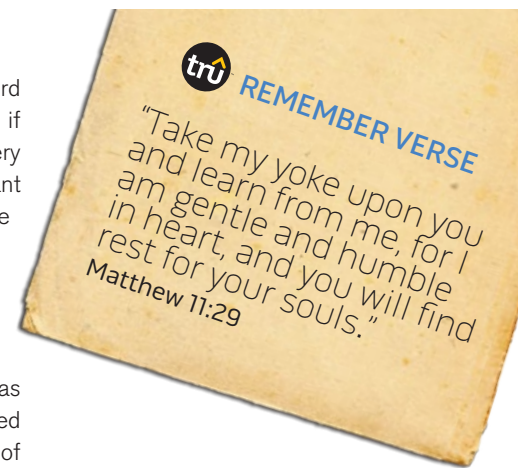
Equip (for parents)

Hannah prayed with bitter tears to the Lord and “made a vow, saying, ‘O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head’” (1 Samuel 1:11).

Hannah called God “LORD Almighty.” This was the first time this name for God was used in Scripture. “LORD Almighty” is translated *Jehovah Tsaba*, which means “Lord of Hosts.” The mood of this word in the Hebrew language describes a person who would go first or “before” into battle and fight for you—someone who was mighty and you would want to follow. It is interesting that this name—Lord of Hosts—first appears when Hannah cries out to God during her vow to give her future child, Samuel, back to Him.

At the time of her prayer, she had no idea God would answer her anguished cries and give her a child who would lead Israel into a new era in which godly leaders would model obedience to God for the people. In fact, Samuel was the one who would anoint David, God’s choice for a king, from whose line Jesus Christ would someday ascend.

In this pivotal moment in Israelite history, God grants Hannah’s request, bringing forth the next phase in His plan for His people, in which Samuel, an obedient servant of God, leads the people.



Support (for parents & kids)

Some time this week, read **1 Samuel 1:9–20**, and ask your kids if they can describe ways that God is almighty and powerful. Talk to them about how God is almighty and will answer our prayers when we cry out to Him, just like He did for Hannah. Share with them how God always hears our prayers and answers them according to what is best for us.

> JUST FOR FUN, read this portion of Scripture together in the morning before you get started for the day. After reading this part of The Big God Story, remind your children that God always hears our prayers ... just like He heard Hannah’s prayer, and that He is faithful to answer us. Pray together, and thank God that He continually displays His might by answering our prayers and taking care of us.

When you are finished, share with your kids that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear it in church. Close in prayer, thanking God for being almighty in our lives.

