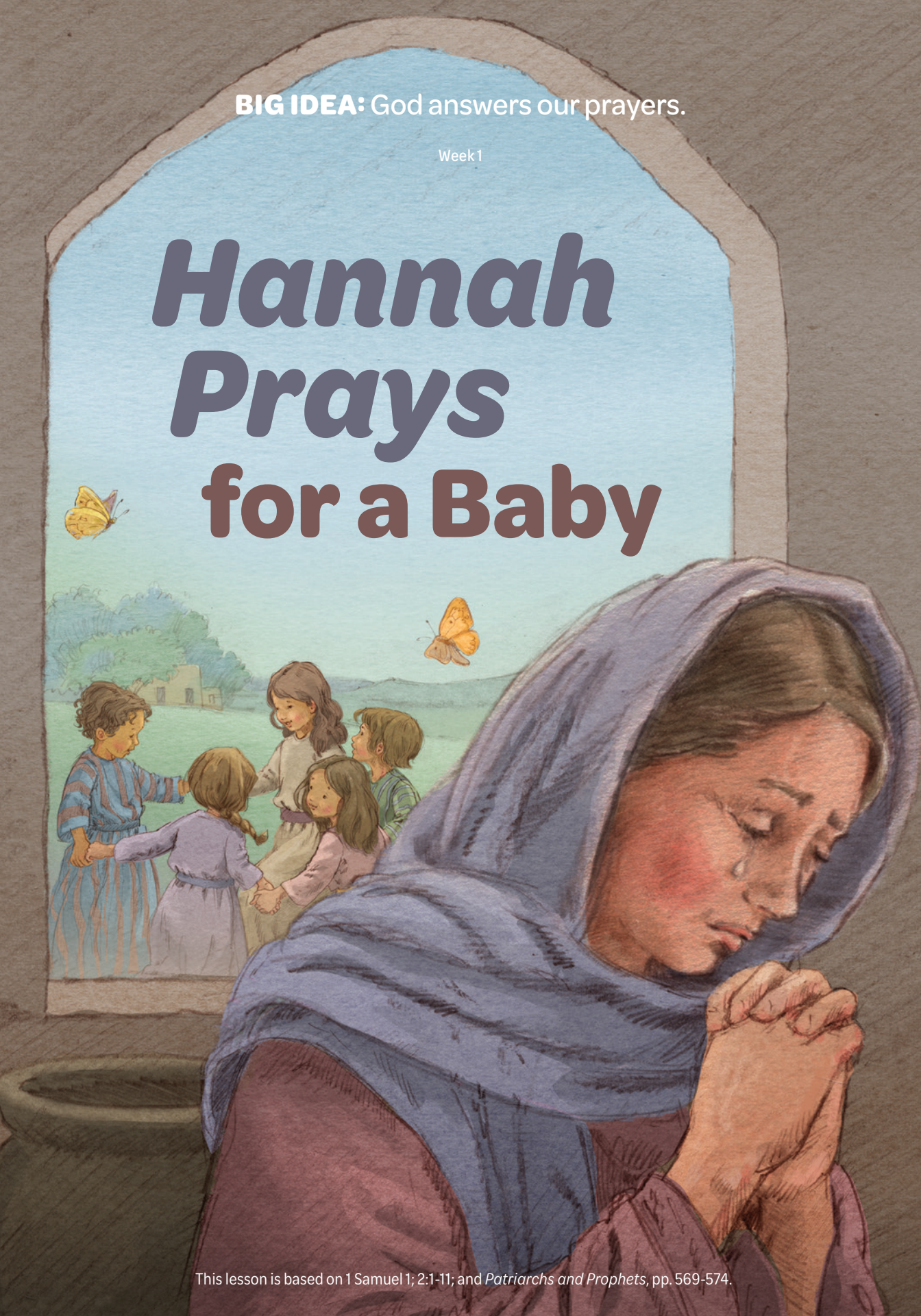
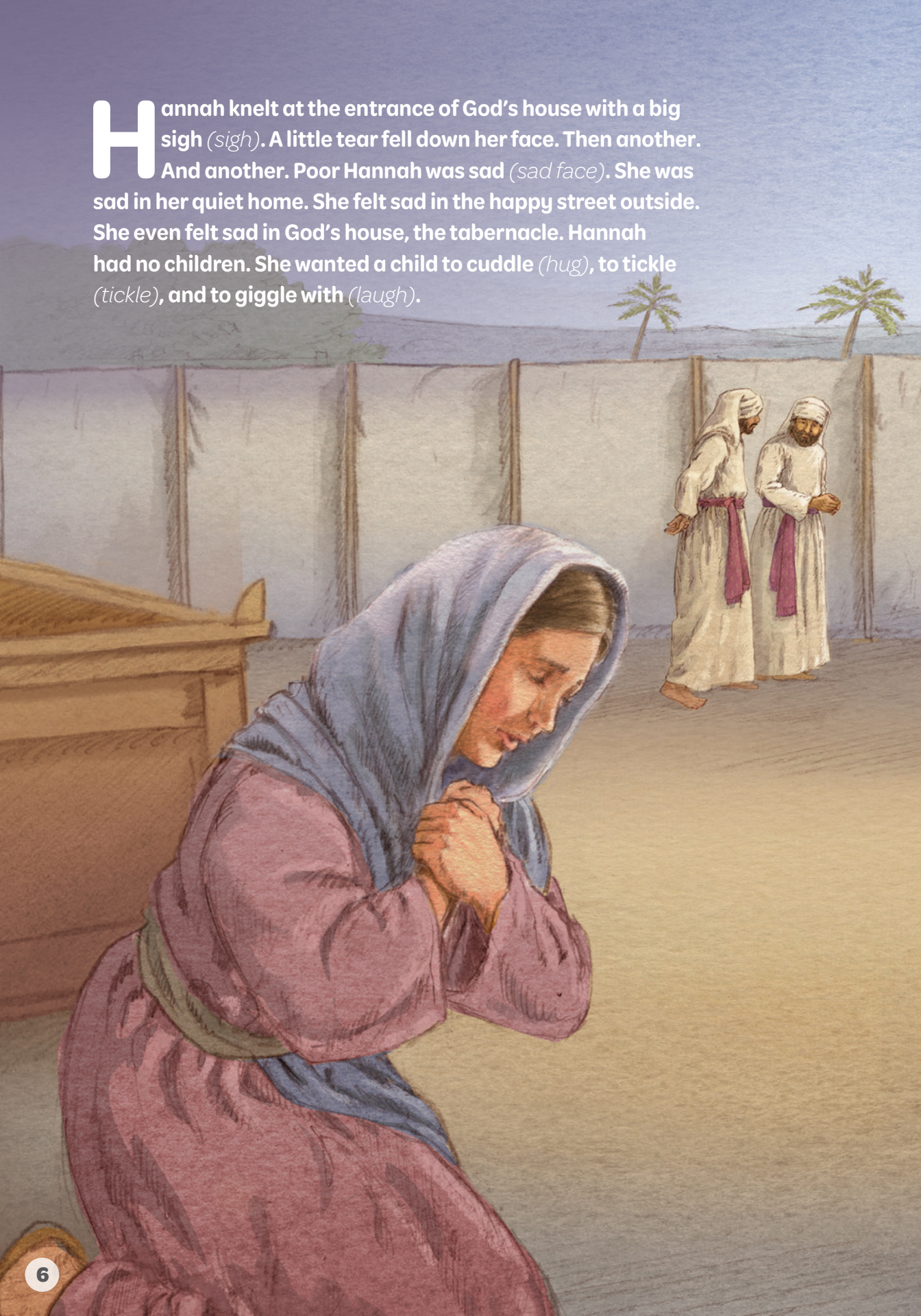
BIG IDEA: God answers our prayers.

Week 1

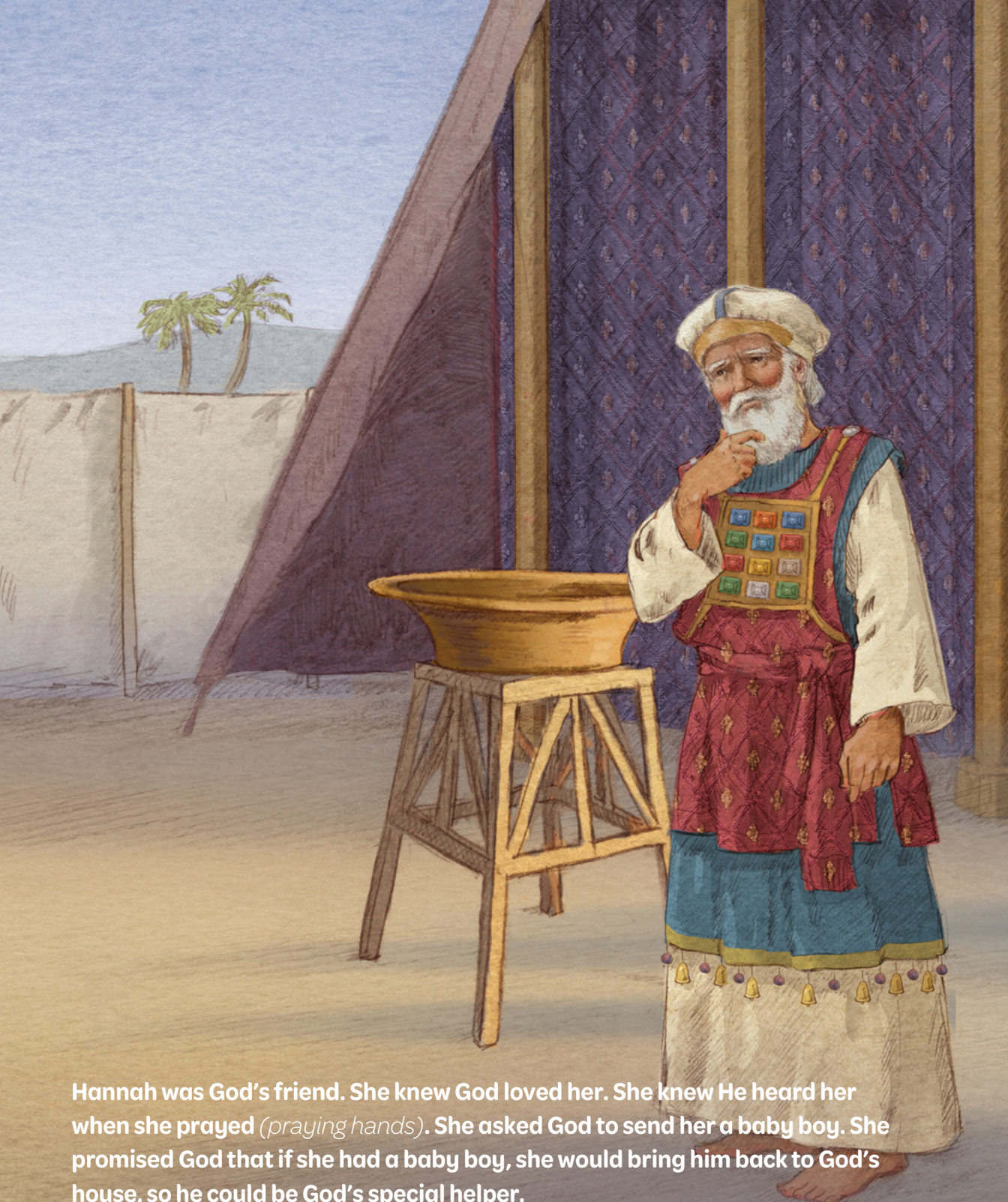
Hannah Prays for a Baby



This lesson is based on 1 Samuel 1; 2:1-11; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 569-574.

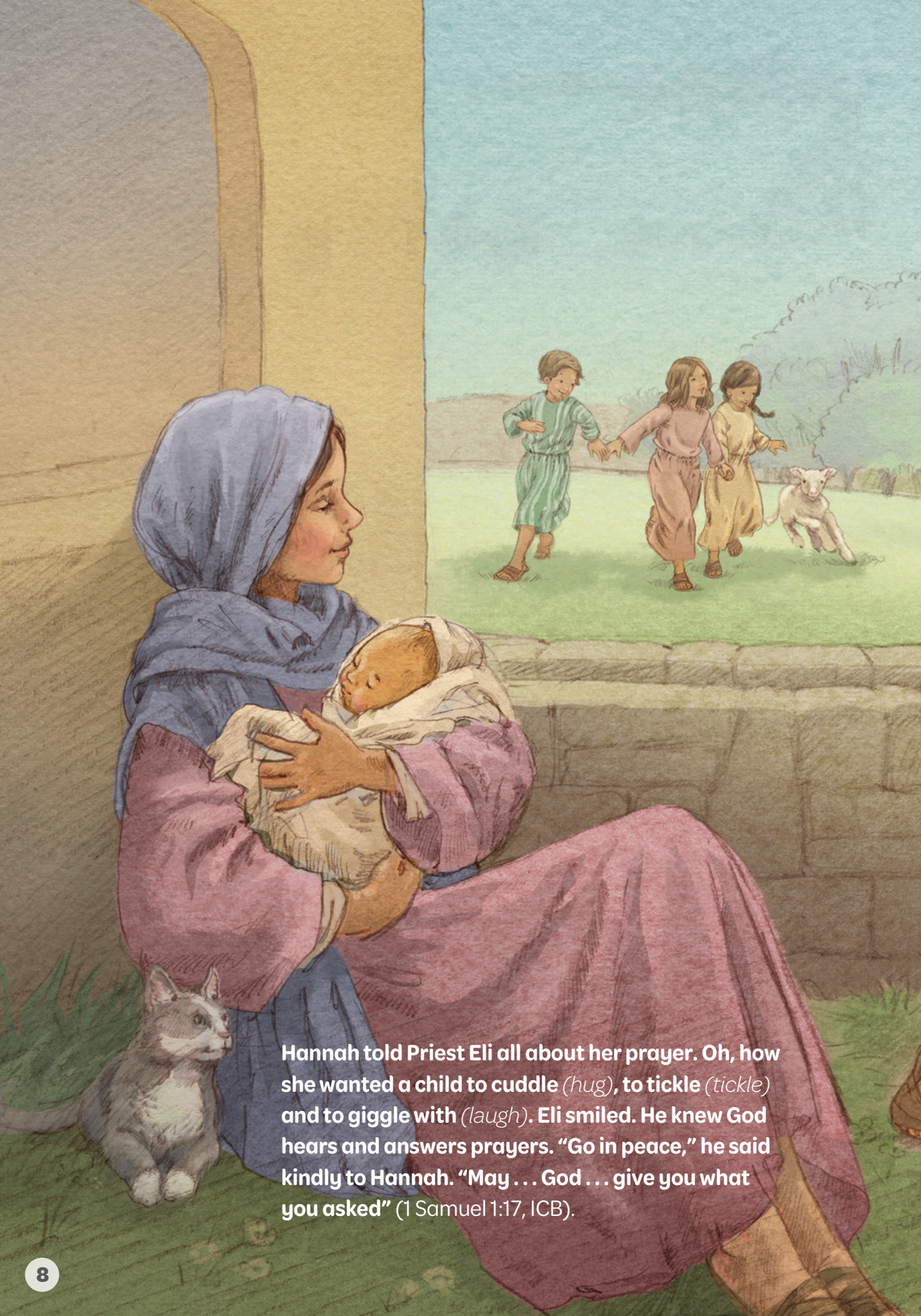


Hannah knelt at the entrance of God's house with a big sigh *(sigh)***. A little tear fell down her face. Then another. And another. Poor Hannah was sad** *(sad face)***. She was sad in her quiet home. She felt sad in the happy street outside. She even felt sad in God's house, the tabernacle. Hannah had no children. She wanted a child to cuddle** *(hug)***, to tickle** *(tickle)***, and to giggle with** *(laugh)***.**

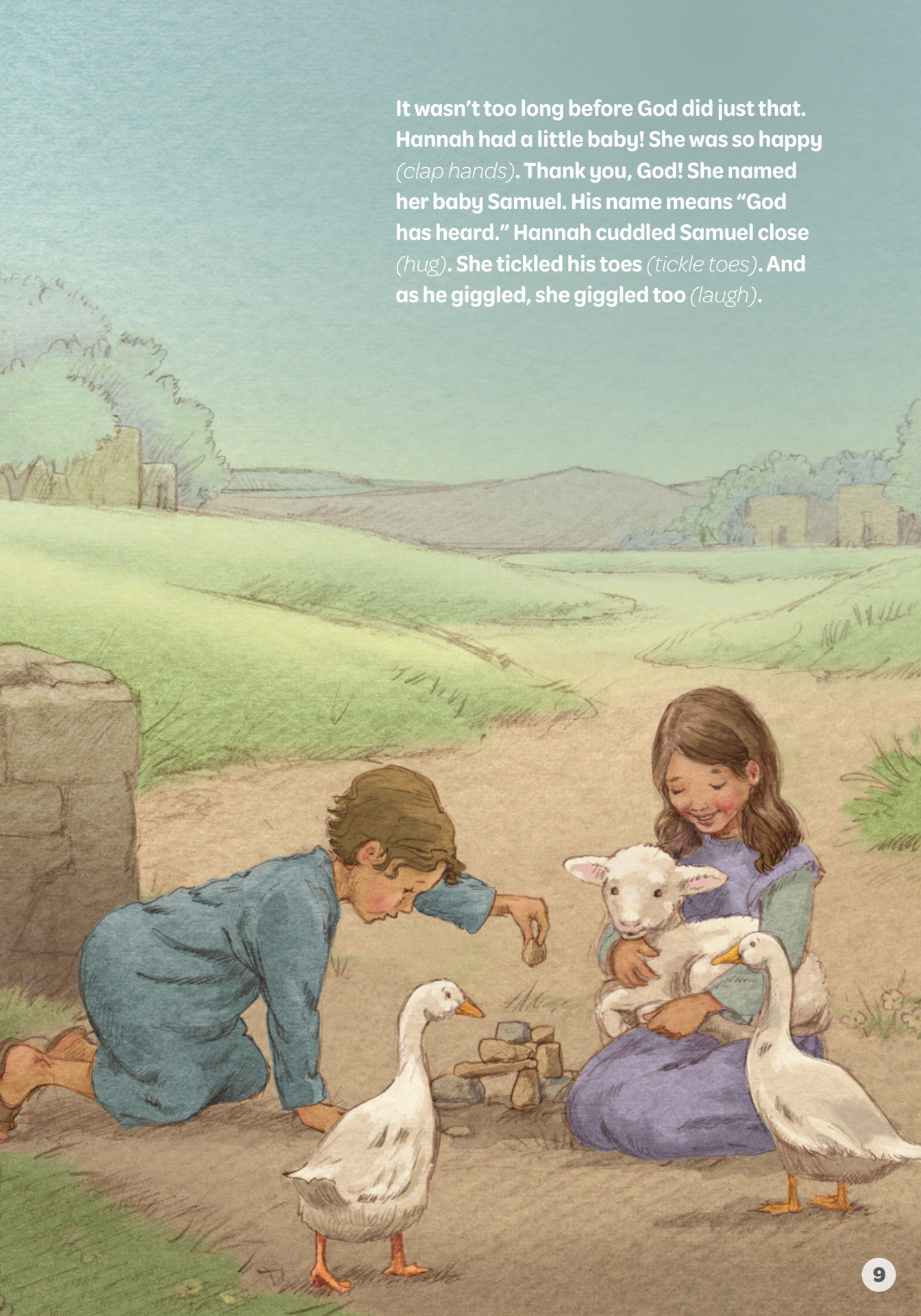


Hannah was God's friend. She knew God loved her. She knew He heard her when she prayed *(praying hands)***. She asked God to send her a baby boy. She promised God that if she had a baby boy, she would bring him back to God's house, so he could be God's special helper.**

Priest Eli was God's special helper *(point to Eli)***. He lived and worked in God's house. He saw Hannah crying. Eli couldn't hear her prayers. But God could! God always hears.**



Hannah told Priest Eli all about her prayer. Oh, how she wanted a child to cuddle *(hug)***, to tickle** *(tickle)* **and to giggle with** *(laugh)***. Eli smiled. He knew God hears and answers prayers. "Go in peace," he said kindly to Hannah. "May . . . God . . . give you what you asked"** (1 Samuel 1:17, ICB).

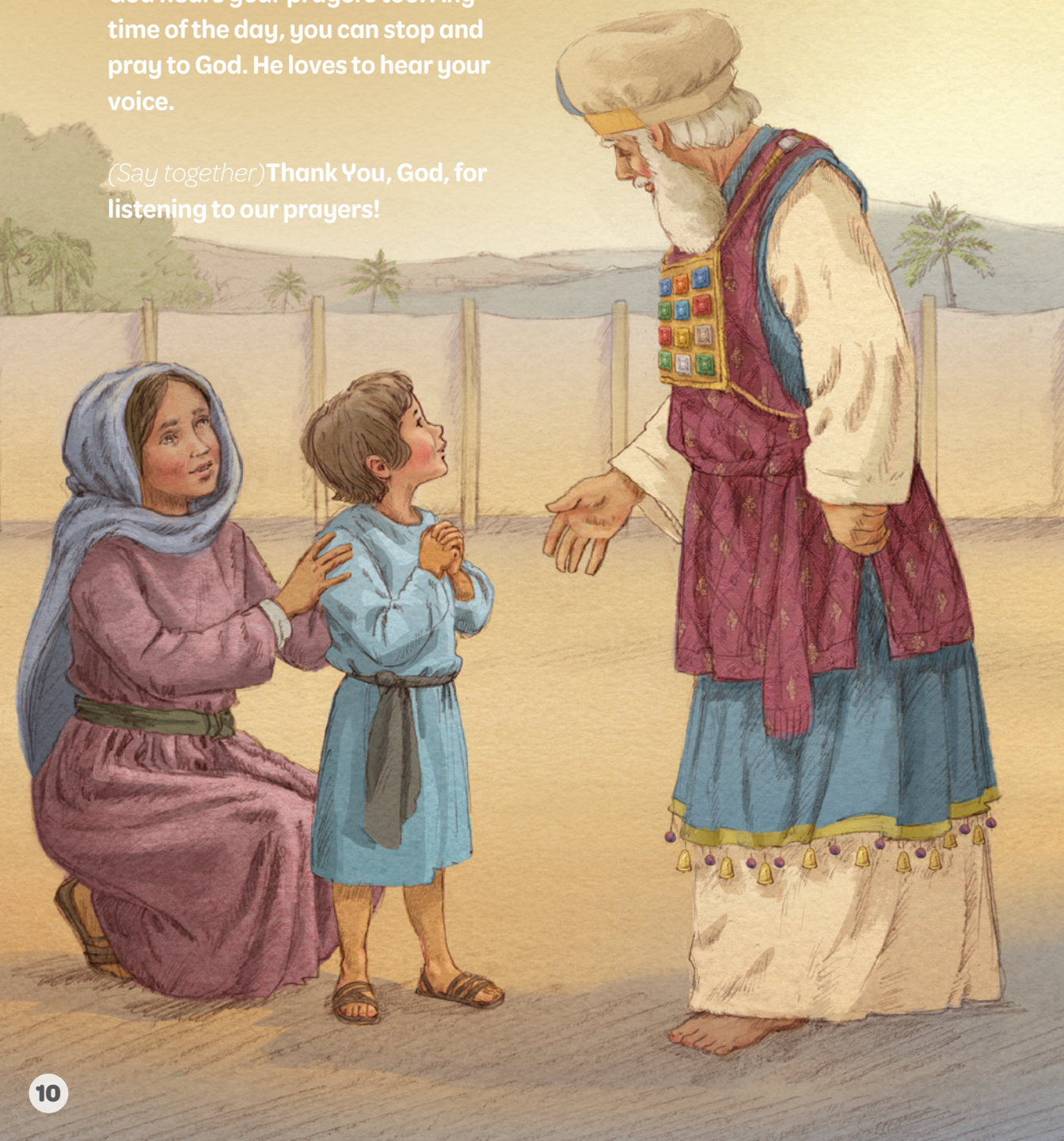


It wasn't too long before God did just that. Hannah had a little baby! She was so happy *(clap hands)***. Thank you, God! She named her baby Samuel. His name means "God has heard." Hannah cuddled Samuel close** *(hug)***. She tickled his toes** *(tickle toes)***. And as he giggled, she giggled too** *(laugh)***.**

Hannah loved her baby so much! She watched Samuel learn to crawl, then walk, then run! When Samuel was old enough, she brought him back to God's house, just as she had promised. God had given him to her. Now she would give him to God to be His special helper. Samuel would grow up to serve God with Priest Eli.

God hears your prayers too! Any time of the day, you can stop and pray to God. He loves to hear your voice.

*(Say together)***Thank You, God, for listening to our prayers!**



play throughout the Day

Create

Use play-dough or modeling clay to create Hannah and her little baby. Ask your child what Hannah's face might have looked like when she cuddled her baby for the first time.

Explore

When the sun has set, take your child outside and hug each other. Share with them that even though *we* sleep every night, God never sleeps! He is always awake and listens closely to our every prayer. He knows the sound of our voice and even hears when lots and lots of people talk to Him at the same time. God is so amazing!

Role Play

Role-play looking after a "baby" (doll/teddy) together with your child. Pretend to bathe, feed, play with, and cuddle the baby. Share how Hannah was so excited that God said yes to her prayer, and how much she loved her little baby. Cuddle your child and let them know that they are an answer to your prayers!

Model

Set a timer on your phone for every hour or two, one day this week. Whenever the timer goes off, stop and pray with your child. Share how God wants us to talk to Him all throughout the day.

Pray

Make a conscious effort in your family prayers to pray over each of your children. Thank God for giving them to you as a gift. Pray that they will grow up to love and help Him.







THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Hannah's example of seeking God earnestly in prayer is a great witness to the power of a praying parent.

God hears. His heart is ever attuned to ours. He is mighty and sovereign, and He is more than able to answer our prayers. Even when it seems like He is silent or His answer differs from what we would like, we can trust that He is still working all things together for good (Romans 8:28).

Hannah's faithfulness didn't stop when her prayer was answered. She committed Samuel to the Lord and gave him up to serve God in the tabernacle.

"From the earliest dawn of intellect she had taught her son to love and reverence God and to regard himself as the Lord's. . . . When separated from her child, the faithful mother's solicitude [attentive care] did not cease. Every day he was the subject of her prayers. . . . She did not ask for her son worldly greatness, but she earnestly pleaded that he might attain that greatness which Heaven values—that he might honor God and bless his fellow men" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 572).

In your busy days, don't forget to pray for your child. Like Hannah, you can give your child to the Lord in prayer. Tell your child that they are an answer from God, and that God has a special plan for their life, just as He did for Samuel. May your heart's desire be that your child develops the greatness that Heaven values, just as Hannah did.

"Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear" (Psalm 10:17).

