

World Weekend of Prayer – children’s activity ideas

All the activities are based around the themes in 1 Samuel and are ideal for groups of primary-aged children.



Theme: Family

Title: Prayer wall

Create shapes of water droplets out of paper and give one to each child. These represent Hannah’s tears as she prays for her child (1 Samuel 1: 7-8). Ask each child to draw or write a prayer request for their family on the drop. Ask each child to repeat what he or she wrote as they go one-by-one to stick their drop to a large piece of paper to create a prayer wall. The leader can close with a prayer.

Hannah wanted a child to care for. God wants to take care of us and has given us loving families to look after us. Let us pray for children, teenagers and their families.

Theme: Education

Title: Prayer balloons

You will need a large group of children for this game. Inflate colourful balloons and use markers to write on them the items boys and girls need in order to study at school (eg pencils, notebooks). Write each word on two different balloons, play music and ask the children to find the pairs of balloons. Afterwards, put the children in groups and ask them to pray for everything children need to go to school using the balloons.

Hannah wanted Samuel to serve God and learn from Eli the things of the church and to study the Bible. In the same way God wants us to do the same.

Theme: Emergencies

Title: Building pyramids

Give the children plastic cups and, in two teams, ask them to build a pyramid as high as they can. When you blow a whistle, knock the cup pyramids down, and ask them to rebuild. The group that manages to raise the highest pyramid at the end of three minutes wins. Tell the children that natural events go unplanned and people many lose everything. Pray for people living in situations like this.

Just as Samuel reacted to God’s call, God also wants us to respond in times of emergencies with an attitude of service.

Theme: Love and peace

Title: Prayer drama

Divide the children into four groups and ask them to produce a drama showing situations of love peace that every child should have in their life – when perhaps they don't always! For instance:

- At home with family
- At school with friends
- Playing with their brother or sister
- Practising for a test or exam

Each group should then perform their play, with the aim of showing each scenario as very peaceful!

Eli loved Samuel very much and cared for him even though he was not his son. God wants children to be loved by the people around them. We should pray for children to be treated with love and respect.

Theme: Equality

Title: Three-legged prayers

Produce several short prayers on card. Hide prayer cards around the room. Pair one boy with one girl, and tie the right foot of one child to the left foot of the second child with ribbon so that they are three-legged. Ask them to work together and find the prayer cards. Ask the children to pray together.

Eli respected Samuel and treated him with dignity recognising that as a child he could serve God. God wants girls around the world to be treated like others and to be respected just as Samuel was.

Theme: Courage

100 jumps for prayer

Come up with three one-line prayer requests on the subject of courage. Ask the children to jump up and down 100 times (or 25 times each as a group of four), repeating the prayer points each time they jump. How easy is it?! God expects us to have strength and endurance to face difficult situations.

For Hannah it was difficult to leave Samuel with Eli, but even so she trusted God and was prepared to do the right thing, honouring her commitment. She had strength in her heart, just as God wants us to be strong in difficult moments. Pray that children around the world would have the strength to speak out against what hurts.

Activities produced by our team in Viva Latin America, adapted and translated into English.

The World Weekend of Prayer is held over the first weekend of June every year, uniting hundreds of thousands of adults and children globally. It is powered by Viva, an international Christian charity that inspires lasting change in children's lives through the power of collective action in 37 community networks worldwide.