

# GOD IS GRACIOUS

- **Key Verse:** “He who did not spare His own Son, but graciously gave Him up for us all ~ how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” Romans 8:32
- **Teaching Passage:** Hannah and Samuel – 1 Samuel
- **Supporting Texts:** Exodus 34:6, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 145:8, Romans 8:32

## **GAME:** Listening to God

Form groups of three. Have one person in each group close his or her eyes. Have the other two take the person at least 20 feet away from their group.

Say: You have one minute to get back to your seat with your eyes closed. Your friends in your group will guide you, but listen well.

The “blind” people can’t be led by the hand; they must follow only their group members’ instructions. Play three times to let each group member have a turn being the blind one.

Then ask: How easy or difficult was it to listen to your group members’ voices? How did other people’s instructions affect you? What techniques did you use to listen well?

Ask if any of the kids in the group know what the word **gracious** means.

Then have the group read this week’s memory verse (**Romans 8:32**) from the poster. Ask if the verse gives any clues about what gracious means. Explain that another way we could say **gracious** is to say that God shows grace to His people and gives us what we don’t deserve, or doesn’t give us what we do deserve.

Tell the kids that you want to tell them a story from the Bible that helps to explain **gracious**.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8 to the group. Choose children to play the parts of Elkanah, Hannah, Peninnah & Eli while you read. After reading through the text, make sure the kids in the group get the following points.

- There was a man named Elkanah who had two wives- Hannah and Peninnah.
- Peninnah had children, but Hannah didn't.
- Every year Elkanah's family would go to Shiloh to worship the Lord and sacrifice to Him.
- One year while they were in Shiloh, Hannah got really upset and wept and cried out to the Lord in prayer. In her prayer she promised God that if He would give her a son that she would give him back to God to serve Him.
- Eli, the priest saw her praying and confronted her and Hannah told him what she was praying and Eli prayed for her as well.
- Elkanah and his family went home and soon Hannah became pregnant. When the baby was born, she named him Samuel because she asked the Lord for him.
- When Samuel was still a very young boy (around 2 maybe), Hannah took Samuel back to Shiloh where she offered a sacrifice to God.
- Then, she took Samuel to Eli, the priest, and told him that she asked God for a baby and He gave her Samuel, so she was keeping her promise to God and was giving Samuel back to Him to serve God.

## DEFINE AND REMEMBER:

To help the kids remember this truth about God, take a few minutes to define the attribute.

GRACIOUS = MERCIFUL, BENEVOLENT, KIND & COMPASSIONATE

**EXPLAIN:** Talk about how we saw the **graciousness** of God in today's story. In this story, God was **gracious** to Hannah; He heard her prayer and He gave her Samuel. Explain how **gracious** has the root word **grace** in it and that grace can be defined as getting what we don't deserve and that God is gracious to His people by giving us what we don't deserve

Since motions & actions help kids remember, choose an action for *GRACIOUS*. A *good motion might be to pretend to hand someone a gift.*

## MEMORY VERSE:

**SAY:** “This morning we’re talking about the truth that God is **gracious**. Another way we could say this is to say that God shows grace to His people and gives us what we don’t deserve, or doesn’t give us what we do deserve.”

Ask, where in the story did we see this definition of grace play out? Explain that God didn’t have to give Hannah a baby, nothing she did meant that she deserved a baby, but that God was gracious to her.

Read the **memory verse** (Romans 8:32) one more time.

## CROSS CONNECTION:

Take a few minutes to talk about the most amazing way that God has shown grace (or been gracious) to His people. Read/ quote **Romans 3:23 and 6:23**. Ask the questions.... who has sinned? and what does our sin deserve? Then, have one of the kids read **Romans 5:8** and ask, what did God do to show His grace to us? Explain how because of our sin we all deserve death, but that God is gracious and gave His only Son, Jesus, so that we might live. Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** and ask what this verse tells us about salvation – it is a free gift of God’s grace. Remind the kids that in the story God didn’t have to give Hannah a baby, but he graciously gave her the gift of a baby, and in the same way, God didn’t have to save anyone and didn’t have to give up His Son, but because of His great love for His people He graciously did just that.

**SONGS:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKoTi4XwfFU>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJgIPk\\_NkZY&t=56s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJgIPk_NkZY&t=56s)

## ACTIVITY: Phone Cups

Supplies: Disposable Plastic Cups, String (not yarn), Small Paper Clips, Ball Point Pens

Directions:

1. Pass out two disposable plastic party cups to each student.
2. Poke a hole in the bottom of each cup with a ballpoint pen.
3. Cut a 10 foot piece of string for each student.
4. Slip the piece of string through the bottom of each cup.
5. Tie a paperclip to each end of the string.
6. Pull cups away from one another slowly until there is a bit of tension on the

string.

7. Allow students to take turns talking into their “cup phones”.

As children are assembling their “cup phones”, remind them that we should listen to the Lord too. Though the Lord may never choose to speak audibly to us, he does speak to us through his word. Encourage students to “listen” to the Lord by reading the Bible.

### **GAME:** God Says!

Play just like “Simon Says”, but using the phrase “God Says”.

### **GAME:** Don't Let God's Words Fall to the Ground!

Supplies: Balloons

Directions: Blow up balloons, as many as you want, and write on them things God wants us to do (Listen, Read our bible, pray, etc.). Have children gather in a circle and toss the balloon in the air and have them keep the balloon from touching the ground.

### REVIEW:

Give each child a blank piece of paper. Provide markers or colored pencils. Encourage them to write the word *gracious* somewhere on the paper and then write or draw something to help them remember this attribute of God. They could write the definition for *gracious* or the memory verse or you could encourage them to draw two cartoons, one of God being gracious to Hannah in the birth of Samuel and one of God's ultimate act of grace in Jesus dying on the cross in our place. After a few minutes, bring the group back together and give kids time to share what they have drawn or written.

### PRAYER:

Pray that the kids in the group would personally come to know the graciousness of God more and more each day and that they would turn to this gracious God for salvation.