



Helping Kids Handle Disappointment God's Way

When Things Don't Go Your Way

Lesson Aim

To help kids understand that disappointment is part of life, but God is always near and working out His bigger plan, even when things don't go our way.

Scripture Focus

- "For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him." (1 Samuel 1:27, *ESV*)
- "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: "Have you ever really wanted something, but it didn't happen the way you hoped? How did that make you feel?"

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of Hannah Praying for a Child (1 Samuel 1:9–20)

Hannah wanted a child more than anything. But year after year, she had none. Every time her family went to the temple, Hannah felt disappointment. She wanted something good, but it seemed like God wasn't answering her prayer. Other people teased her, and even her husband didn't understand how deeply it hurt.

One day at the temple, Hannah was so upset that she prayed with tears, pouring out her heart to God. She promised, "Lord, if You give me a son, I will give him back to You for all his life." She prayed so intensely that the priest Eli thought she was upset or drunk! But



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Hannah explained, “I am a woman deeply troubled. I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.”

God heard Hannah’s prayer. In time, He gave her a son named Samuel. Hannah kept her promise and dedicated him to the Lord, and Samuel grew up to become one of Israel’s greatest prophets. But notice: Hannah’s disappointment didn’t end overnight. She had to wait, pray, and trust God through the pain.

Hannah’s story shows us: when things don’t go our way, God is still listening. He cares about our disappointments. Sometimes His answer is “yes,” sometimes “no,” and sometimes “wait.” But His plan is always bigger and better than what we can see.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What did Hannah do when she was disappointed?
2. How did God answer her prayer?
3. What can we do when things don’t go our way?

- **Explain:**

- Disappointment is not a sign that God doesn’t love us—it’s a chance to trust Him more.
- God hears our prayers and works out His plan in His perfect timing.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a personal example from your own life when you felt disappointed and how you saw God’s plan at work. Keep it simple and real so kids can connect to your story.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to role-play or draw short scenes that show disappointment turning into trust. For example, not being picked for a game, not getting a toy they wanted, or plans being canceled—and then showing how they can pray, talk to God, or choose gratitude instead of staying upset. This activity helps kids imagine how God’s truth looks in everyday life.

Pray

- *“Lord, thank You that You are near when we are disappointed. Help us to trust that Your plan is bigger than ours. Teach us to bring our sadness to You and to wait with hope. Amen.”*

Craft/Activity

- Give each child a sheet of paper folded in half. On one side, they draw something that represents a disappointment (like a broken toy, canceled trip, or losing a game). On the other side, they draw something that reminds them of God’s bigger plan (a heart for His love, a cross, or a sunshine for hope). Let them share how God is bigger than their disappointment.

Key Takeaway

- God’s plan is bigger than ours.