

Hannah – a drama for Mothering Sunday

Characters:

Hannah

Elkanah

Peninnah

Eli

Baby Samuel

Child Samuel

Children and other People of God

Setting:

We used coloured cloths thrown over boxes and a menorah to create a “temple” at the back of the church.

Scene 1

(Characters gather at the front of the church)

Narrator: Every year the People of God went to Shiloh to worship God in the temple.

(Peninnah leads the way with all the children. She is followed by Elkanah. Finally, Hannah walks at the back. As they make their way down the nave Peninnah shows that she is jeering and taunting Hannah.)

Narrator: Elkanah went with his wives Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah walked at the front. She had lots of children and she was very proud of it. Hannah walked at the back. She had no children and this made her very sad. Elkanah loved Hannah dearly but Peninnah used to taunt Hannah and tell her she was worthless.

(Peninnah, Elkanah, Hannah and children all stand around to one side of the temple)

When Peninnah was cruel to her, Hannah used to go off by herself to cry.
(Hannah moves to one side, closes eyes and prays)

One day she crept into the Temple to pray. She closed her eyes and prayed silently to God. Only her lips were moving. Then Eli the priest came into the Temple.

(Eli enters)

Eli: How long will you keep on getting drunk? Throw away your wine.

Hannah: I am not drunk my lord. I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have been praying to God out of my great anguish and grief.

Eli: Go in peace and may God grant you what you have asked of him.

Narrator: And the next day the People of God made their way home. *(People of God make their way back to their seats)*

Scene 2

Narrator: Every year the People of God went to Shiloh to worship God in the temple. But this next year Hannah did not go.

(Hannah walks up and down the aisle showing baby Samuel to the people)

For God had answered Hannah's prayer and she had given birth to a baby son. She named him Samuel which in Hebrew sounds like "God has heard".

(Elkanah goes to stand at the front)

Hannah told Elkanah that she would not go with him to Shiloh.

Hannah: After the boy is weaned I will take him and present him to the Lord, and he will live there always.

Elkanah: Do what seems best to you. May the Lord make good his word.

Scene 3

Narrator: Every year the People of God went to Shiloh to worship God in the temple. This year Hannah walked at the front and Samuel walked with her.

(People of God go to Shiloh as in Scene 1)

Narrator: After they had made their sacrifices they brought Samuel to Eli.

Hannah: I am the woman you saw praying. God heard my prayer and gave me the child I asked for. So now I give him to the Lord.

Eli: The child will stay here in the temple, and his life will be given to God.

Narrator: So when the People of God went home Samuel stayed in Shiloh with Eli the priest. *(People of God make their way back home. Samuel stays with Eli)*

Narrator: But every year when the People of God went to Shiloh, Hannah took a little coat that she had made to give to Samuel.

(Hannah returns holding a little coat. Samuel runs to meet her.)

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