



O Baby, Beautiful Baby Mine!

Theme and Decorations

- Decorate with clocks that have a baby theme. Our babies are from God to be ours for a time.
- Drape a soft-colored blanket over the edge of a baby buggy or bassinet. Fill the buggy or bassinet with baby dolls from times past.
- Decorate with items that a mom might save to remind her of this special time with her new baby; baby shoes that have been worn over time; sentimental baby clothes, such as a take-home-from-hospital outfit or a first dress; baby's first fork, spoon, and cup.

Food

- Peekaboo Pastry Puffs
- Chicken Salad
- Sugar 'n' Spice Muffins
- Watermelon Buggy

Games

Babies over Time Game

Ask each guest bring a baby picture. Tape all the pictures onto a poster board and number them. Give guests five minutes to write down whose baby picture they think each photo is. The lady with the most correct guesses wins.

"Timed" Memory Test

Place fifteen to twenty small baby items on a

tray and cover them with a baby blanket. These items could include teething toys, pacifiers, Q-tips, a disposable diaper, nail clippers, baby soap, washcloth, bottle, rattles, toys, and the like. When you play the game, remove the blanket and give the guests two to three minutes to look over the items on the tray. They are not allowed to take notes. Cover the tray and ask the guests to write down as many items as they can remember. The person who remembers the most items wins.

Shopping for Baby with No Time to Spare

Match the brand names to the items in three minutes.

1. Zwieback _____
2. Orajel _____
3. Pampers _____
4. Desitin _____
5. Similac _____
6. Pedialyte _____
7. Chubs _____
8. Evenflow _____
9. Swimmers _____
10. Banana Boat Kids _____
11. Nuk _____
12. Gerber _____
13. Snuggle _____
14. Isomil _____
15. Tylenol _____
16. Johnson's _____
17. Dreft _____

18. Q-tips _____
 19. Cosco _____
 20. Shout _____

Words to Select From

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| pacifier | fabric softener |
| stain remover | cotton swabs |
| swimming diapers | baby wipes |
| formula (used twice) | high chair |
| diaper rash ointment | shampoo |
| disposable diapers | bottle |
| maintenance water | sunscreen |
| baby food | teething toast |
| teething medicine | laundry detergent |
| pain reliever | |

Answers

- (1) Teething toast; (2) teething medicine; (3) disposable diapers; (4) diaper rash ointment; (5) formula; (6) maintenance water; (7) baby wipes; (8) bottle; (9) swimming diapers; (10) sunscreen; (11) pacifier; (12) baby food; (13) fabric softener; (14) formula; (15) pain reliever; (16) shampoo; (17) laundry detergent; (18) cotton swabs; (19) high chair; (20) stain remover.

Songs

- “Water Colored Ponies”
 “Arrow and the Bow”
 “Goodnight Kiss”
 “Sweet Hour of Prayer”
 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Devotions

Ours for a Time

Time Is of the Essence

Now is the time to get things done . . .
 Wade in the water,
 Sit in the sun,
 Squish my toes in the mud by the door,

Explore the world in a boy just four.
 Now is the time to study books,
 Flowers,
 Snails,
 How a cloud looks;
 To ponder “up,”
 Where God sleeps nights,
 Why mosquitoes take such big bites.
 Later there’ll be time,
 To sew and clean,
 Paint the hall
 That soft new green,
 To make new drapes,
 Refinish the floor—
 Later on . . . when he’s not just four.

—Irene Foster

Babies are gifts from God. (*Read Psalm 127:3.*) Babies are ours for a time: to love, train, and teach about God. God has commanded Christian parents to do just that. (*Ask volunteers to read Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, and Deuteronomy 6:7.*)

Being a parent is a blessing, but it is also a big responsibility. God gives children to us for a time, but they are still His. Our children belong to God from birth. A good example from God’s Word is Hannah. She was a humble, determined woman who loved God and believed He could give her the desire of her heart . . . to have a child.

As women and mothers, we can note four examples Hannah provides for us that resulted in the blessing of God.

First, Hannah prayed to God. (*Read 1 Samuel 1:10 and 11.*) Hannah was troubled, disappointed, and hurting. She had a good husband who loved her and wanted to make her happy. She had his affection, companionship, and security *but no children*. She also had to endure his second wife’s anger and taunting.

Hannah longed to find comfort, so she poured her heart out to God in prayer. In her pain and anguish Hannah went to the only One truly capable of providing help. God was there to answer

her prayers, not only for a child, but for comfort in her misery. As soon as she had finished praying, “her countenance was no more sad” (1 Sam. 1:18).

Hannah didn't yet know that God would give her a son, but she did know the grace and comfort of God that no husband, friend, or parent could give her. Whatever the situation, God is ready and willing to give grace and comfort in our time of need when we look to Him and pray. From Hannah's example we mothers can learn the power that prayer can have in our lives. God is eager to hear our prayers and to help us train our children to honor and glorify Him.

Second, Hannah obeyed God. Hannah was devoted to God. First Samuel 1:27 and 28 record her words. (*Read the verses.*) Hannah was determined to obey no matter what the cost. She had made a vow to God, and she was going to keep it.

Samuel was just a small boy. Can you imagine the strength and faith it took to leave him at the tabernacle? Maybe Hannah understood that Samuel truly was a gift from God and was hers only for a time. Children really belong to God, and we need to be ready to let God use them for Himself. We can learn from Hannah's example to obey willingly whatever God asks us to do in regard to our children. We need to do whatever it takes to see them grow, mature, and come to trust Jesus as their Savior.

Third, Hannah praised God. Hannah's response to God was to glorify Him and to praise His name. Hannah's prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God was probably recited in the tabernacle right after she had given Samuel to Eli to raise. She was thankful to God. She praised Him for four reasons: (1) God is holy. (*Ask a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 2:2.*) (2) He is a God of knowledge. The last part of verse 3 reads, “For the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.” (3) He is a God of power. Verses 4–8 remind us that God gives strength to the feeble, bread to the hungry, and life to the barren woman, and that He kills and makes alive, exalts the poor and makes them rich.

(4) God is a judging God. Verses 9 and 10 tell us that one day He will judge the earth.

As women, we have so much to praise God for, yet we get so busy with our families and schedules that we forget to give God the praise and honor He deserves. We should follow Hannah's example of praise.

Fourth, Hannah was devoted to her family. We learn from 1 Samuel 2:19 that from “year to year” Hannah made Samuel a little robe and took it to him when she went with her husband “to offer the yearly sacrifice.”

Hannah is an example of a mother who took care of the needs of her family. I am sure a lot of love and many tears went into every stitch of Samuel's coat. Hannah went with her husband every year to offer sacrifices to God. We can learn from her example to be concerned about our family's physical and spiritual needs. As mothers, we have an awesome responsibility to teach our children about God's love and their need for a Savior. Many times it is with Mother that a child will see his or her need to trust in Jesus for eternal life.

As a faithful mother, Hannah prayed to God, obeyed God, praised God, and led her family in God's way. May we be women of faith who seek God and desire to train our children to honor and serve Him.

Nametags



Prizes

These prizes are designed for the winners to give to the mother (or mother-to-be). If you prefer to have the winners keep their prizes, choose other items.

- Baby spoon and fork
- Small decorative clock
- Booties
- Pacifier
- CD of lullabies

Recipes

Watermelon Buggy

- 1 watermelon
- 1 pint (2 cups) fresh strawberries
- 2 cups grapes
- 1 pineapple
- 1 cantaloupe
- 3 bananas, if desired
- 2 cans peach pie filling
- 1 large orange
- Pink or blue ribbon
- Toothpicks

1. Cut watermelon halfway down from the top and halfway in from the side to take out a quarter section. Remove the inside of watermelon; cut into bite-size chunks.

2. Cut fresh fruit (except orange) into bite-size chunks; add pie filling. Put mixture into the watermelon buggy.

3. Slice thick slices of an orange to make wheels for the buggy. Attach with toothpicks. Using toothpicks, attach pink or blue ribbon bows to hood of buggy.

Sugar 'n' Spice Muffins

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup margarine
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tablespoon butter flavoring
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup raw chopped apple

TOPPING

- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup chopped pecans
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon

1. Cream margarine and sugar together. Add milk, beaten egg, and butter flavoring. Combine flour, salt, baking power, and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon; add to mixture. Stir in apples; spoon into greased muffin tins.

2. In small bowl, combine the brown sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon, and pecans. Mix well and sprinkle on unbaked muffins.

3. Bake muffins at 350°F for 20–25 minutes.

Peekaboo Pastry Puffs

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup margarine
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 cup flour
- 4 eggs

1. Boil water and add flour. Stir dough until it pulls away from sides of mixing bowl. Add eggs, one at a time. Beat 5 minutes after each egg. (If using electric mixer, beat 30 seconds after each egg.)

2. Drop by spoonfuls or small ice cream scoop onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 450°F for 10 minutes, then at 325°F for 20 minutes. Let cool. Cut slits in top to let dry. Fill with chicken salad.

Chicken Salad

- 2 cups diced apples
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup grapes, halved
- Miracle Whip to taste

Toss apples in lemon juice. Combine with other ingredients and add Miracle Whip. Refrigerate before serving.