

# Right Here Waiting

**Bible Story:** Right Here Waiting (Simeon at the Temple) • *Luke 2:22-35*

**Bottom Line:** When you need to wait, ask God for patience.

**Key Question:** What do you do when you have to wait?

**Memory Verse:** *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

**Life App:** Life App—What God is doing in you to change the world around you

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## GET READY

As you're preparing for your lesson this week, take some time to lift your students and your time together in small group up to God in prayer. Pray that He would allow you to display patience with your "few" today as you talk about that Fruit of the Spirit. Ask Him for the words to say and the questions to ask that will help your kids engage in real conversation and faith exploration.

**8:50-9:05/ 10:50 -11:05**

**5 Minutes Travel Time to Large Group!**

## CONNECTION TIME (15 Minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

### 1. Just for Fun

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Painter's tape

**What You Do:**

- **Divide** into two teams.
- **Direct** each team to stand shoulder-to-shoulder between the two lines of tape designated for them.
- **Explain** that the first person in line must change places with the last person without stepping outside the lines of tape.
- When the switch is completed, the next two players can swap places.
- **Continue** until the whole team has switched places. The first team to finish is the winner.
- *Note: If you have a small number of students, play as one team using a stopwatch to time the switch then repeat to see if they can beat the first time.*

## 2. Get Your Head in the Game

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Frozen LEGO®s, towels

### What You Do:

- **Form** groups of two to three students.
- **Break off** a section of the frozen LEGOs for each group.
- **Give** each team a towel to place on the floor or table in front of them.
- **Tell** the teams to race to see which team can melt, crack, or otherwise remove the frozen water around each LEGO then shape the pieces into something that resembles a baby.

### What You Say:

“If you think thawing LEGOs took more time than you wanted, it might have put your patience to the test. **[Transition] Your LEGO babies might be cute but not as cute as the one we’ll hear about in today’s Large Group.** We’re going to hear about a baby that was a long time coming but well worth the wait.”

**9:05 / 11:05)** – Take your kids to Large Group and remind them to take their offering. Remember to take your Attendance clipboard with you!☺

## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** ( Approx. 25 Minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### 1. Take a Snapshot

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Pens, note cards, large bubble wrap

### What You Do:

- **Set** out pens and note cards.
- Without discussing what they are writing, **have** students write down things that test their patience.
  - Ask what they have a hard time waiting patiently for.
  - What situations tend to make them lose their cool?
  - Each idea should be written on a separate card.
- After a few minutes, **collect** the cards.
- **Give** each person a piece of large bubble wrap.
- **Read** what students wrote then invite the group to take turns indicating the level of frustration that situation would cause them based on the following bubble wrap scale:
  - One pop = “no biggie”

- Two pops = “annoying”
- Three pops = “LOSING MY MIND!”

*NOTE: The easiest way to pop the bubble wrap is by twisting it.*

### What You Say:

“Patience is a Fruit of the Spirit just like love, joy, peace, and other qualities that reflect God’s character in us. When we become a follower of Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit to help us live the way God wants us to live. When our patience is tested and we lose it, we can never say, ‘I just couldn’t help it.’ The truth is, we *can* help it. We can take a deep breath and count to ten. We can stop and remember how others have been patient with us when we were being selfish or obnoxious. We can remember that losing our temper never ends well. Most importantly, we can pray. God—the most patient one ever—will help grow patience in us if we ask Him to.”

## 2. Bible Story Extension

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bible, baby dolls, baby blankets, music

### What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Hand** a doll and blanket to two students.
- **Explain** that you will begin playing music as students pass each doll (in its blanket) in opposite directions.
  - The person receiving the doll must wrap and unwrap it in the blanket before passing it to the person next to them, moving in the opposite direction from which it came.
  - Whoever has an unwrapped doll when the music stops must give a one-word review of something they remember from the story.
  - It can be the name of a person in the story, a place, emotion, object, adjective (a word that describes something such as, kind or smelly), or any single word that relates to the Bible story of Simeon.
- **Play** long enough to review the Bible story then collect the blankets and dolls.
- If the game didn’t provide enough detail, **read** Luke 2:25-35 to fill in the story as needed.
- **Lead** students in a discussion about the example Simeon was of patience.
- **Discuss:**
  - We aren’t given very many details about Simeon, but from the things we know, what would you say was his secret to patience?
  - How would you introduce Simeon to someone who had never met him?
  - What do you find most encouraging from Simeon’s story?
  - What do you find most challenging?
- **Read** Ephesians 4:2.
  - How did Simeon live out this verse?
  - What would it look like for us to live out this verse today?

### 3. Discussion Questions

[Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

**Ask:**

- If you could name one thing that is most often at the root of impatience, what would it be? In other words, why do we get annoyed?
- What do you typically do when you have to wait for something small? What about for something big?
- If you could name one thing that is the key ingredient to patience for someone who follows Jesus, what would it be?
- How is being patient different than just gritting your teeth and keeping your frustration inside?
- If you find yourself often losing your patience over the same things, what can you do when you are in that situation again?
- What are the consequences of being an impatient person?
- What are the benefits of being a patient person?

### 4. Verse to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Wrap Sheet” Activity Page, baby dolls, baby blankets, Colossians 3:12 notecards, tape, string or yarn, scissors, plastic wrap

**What You Do:**

- **Create** two teams.
- **Give** each team equal supplies from the list below.
  - Doll
  - Baby blanket
  - Tape
  - Bible
  - Scissors
  - Plastic food wrap
  - Yarn or string
  - Colossians 3:12 notecard
  - “That’s a Wrap” Activity Page
- **Tell** teams that they will have two minutes to use the supplies to wrap their doll, Bible, and notecard all together in one bundle.
  - The goal is to make it as hard as possible for the opposing team to later unwrap it.
  - Set a rule that kids can only use the scissors to cut tape. They may not use them when unwrapping the bundles.
- **Set** a countdown video or timer and let teams begin. Provide a one-minute warning.

- **Exchange** bundles then signal students to unwrap the bundle, find the paper marked, “Wrap Sheet” then follow the steps IN ORDER. The first team to shout out, “Patience Rocks!” is the winner.
- After the game, **bring** everyone together and reread Colossians 3:12 aloud.
- **Ask:**
  - This verse isn’t talking about wearing cool clothes, so what does it actually mean?
  - What does it look like for someone to “wear” patience?
  - If you were going to clothe or wrap yourself up with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, where would you start? What bad attitudes would need to change?
  - If someone said, “I want to be more patient, but I don’t know how,” what would you tell that person?

## 10:20 / 12:20

### 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

#### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- **Consider** inviting students to kneel as you lead them in prayer using Psalm 27:14 as a guide.

**What You Say:**

“Psalm 27:14 starts out like this: *‘Wait for God.’* Use the prayer posture you’ve chosen as you pray silently asking God to help you wait on Him this week when you feel frustrated, angry, or ready to lose patience.”

*(Pause as students pray.)*

“Psalm 27:14 goes on to tell us that we should *‘stand strong and not lose hope.’* When you’re tempted to lose your cool this week, remember that you have an all-powerful God who can help you be strong when your patience is tested. Think about the week that’s ahead of you and ask God to help you respond with a patient attitude instead of an impatient one.”

*(Pause as students pray.)*

“Psalm 27:14 ends the way it began—with the words, *‘wait for God.’* Pray silently for the person nearest you. Ask God to help that person choose to talk to God when he or she is feeling impatient. Then, when you hear the music stop, you’re dismissed.”

*(Pause as students pray.)*

“Dear God, thank you for your patience with us. Help us to follow your example this week and show patience when life gets crazy and out of control. In Jesus’ name, amen.”