

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.

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

Take a few moments to pray for kids who will hear the message from this lesson. Ask God for patience with your group as they learn about patience. Pray that God would help kids learn to have patience in whatever phase they are currently experiencing. Ask God to help kids understand that patience takes time to grow in them. Pray that kids would continue to ask God for patience and to take every opportunity He gives them to exhibit this fruit in their lives.

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.

Special Note: This week's activities are designed to help kids practice patience through turn-taking, delayed gratification, fine motor challenges, and other patience-building strategies. As you work with the kids, be sure to praise patient behavior and to model patience yourself.

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: A variety of candies appropriate for your environment

What You Do:

- Ask: "Have you ever had to wait a loong time for something you really wanted? What was it? Was it hard to wait?"
- Let each child choose a candy.
- Tell kids that if they wait and don't eat their candy now, they can choose two more pieces during Prayer!

2. Baby, Baby

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

What You Need: “Baby, Baby” Activity Pages; baby dolls and clothes; dice

What You Do:

- Divide the group into teams of three or four.
- Give each team a baby doll, a set of clothes, a die, and an Activity Page.
- Tell teams that at your signal, they’ll roll their dice.
- Each number they roll corresponds to a piece of clothing. Guide kids to point to the numbers and pictures on the Activity Page as you explain.
 - One: onesie
 - Two: socks
 - Three: shirt
 - Four: pants
 - Five: hat
 - Six: blanket
- When they roll a number, they put that piece of clothing on their baby doll.
 - The catch: teams must roll each number in order. They have to wait until they roll a one and then they can put on the onesie. Then they keep rolling until they get a two, when they can put on the socks, and so on.

What You Say:

“Was it hard to wait until you rolled each number in order? **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a man who waited a long, long time for a VERY special baby. Let’s go learn more.”

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.

Special Note: This week’s activities are designed to help kids practice patience through turn taking, delayed gratification, fine motor challenges, and other patience-building strategies. As you work with the kids, be sure to praise patient behavior and to model patience yourself.

1. Patience Puzzle

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Prepared “Patience Puzzles” (Activity Pages) – 2 per class.

What You Do:

- Divide kids into as many groups as there are leaders. Give each leader a group of kids.
- Give each group a puzzle.
- At your signal of “green light,” teams work together to assemble the puzzles.
- As they work, randomly call out “red light” (the kids must freeze), “yellow light” (the kids must move in slow motion), and “green light” (the kids may work at normal speed).
- When all groups finish, invite kids to describe what’s happening in the picture.

What You Say:

“Simeon made a regular habit of talking with God and listening to what He said. He spent time in the temple, too, listening to God’s promises. One day, God’s Spirit gave Simeon a strong, clear promise. God told Simeon that he wouldn’t die before he saw the Messiah, the Savior.

“And even though he had to wait a LONG time, Simeon trusted God’s promise. And one day, his patience paid off. He found himself looking into the dark, bright eyes of a little baby held lovingly in his mother’s arms. Simeon was looking into the eyes of baby Jesus, God’s Savior! Wow! God kept His promise!

“Does God always keep His promises? Yes, God always, always, always, always keeps His promises. Sometimes, like Simeon, we may have to wait a long time for them to come true, but **[Bottom Line] when you need to wait, ask God for patience.** He’ll help you. And remember, whatever God promises is true!”

*** 2. Wait for It . . .****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

What You Need: Seeds, cup of soil with spoons, planter cups (1 per kid), markers, labels (1 per kids)

What You Do:

- Give each child a planter cup, a couple of seeds, and spoons of soil
- Guide them to place one spoonful of soil in the planter cup, then the seeds, then cover with soil.
- Give each child a label to write their name, or leader writes their name
- Add a small drop of water to the planted seeds in the planter cup.
- Tell kids to take their plant home along with an instruction card.
 - In a few (patient) days, the seeds will begin to grow!
- Encourage kids to let their little sprouted plant remind them that **[Bottom Line] when you need to wait, ask God for patience.**

What You Say:

“Sometimes waiting can be hard! It’s hard for me to be patient when **[Make It Personal] (tell kids when it’s hard for you to be patient and what you do to help yourself wait).**

“When is it hard for YOU to wait for something? *(Pause for responses.)* What are some things you can do that can help you wait patiently? *(I can talk to God. I can sing a song. I can play a game. I can read a book.)* Who can help you make the wise choice to be patient? Yes! God can. God loves you, so talk

to Him and tell Him how you feel. He can help you have peace, and He can help you be patient. So **[Bottom Line]** when you need to wait, ask God for patience. He loves you, and He'll help!"

3. Patience Pong

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "Memory Verse Strips" (Activity Pages) inside cups, ping-pong balls

What You Do:

- Divide the group into teams of three or four.
- Guide teams to line up.
- Place a set of five cups in a five-spot pattern (like you would see on a die) three to six feet from each team. (Make it a shorter distance for younger kids; farther for older.)
- Give each team five ping-pong balls.
- At your signal, kids take turns attempting to toss the balls into the cups, one ball per cup.
 - Depending on the skill of your group, allow each child one to three attempts. If it seems to be taking too long for kids to get the balls in cups, let them stand a little closer to the cups.
- If a team lands two balls in the same cup, they must remove one of the balls.
- When a team successfully lands a ball in each cup, kids remove the Bible verse strips and work together to put them in order.
- *TIP: If other teams are still playing, they can cheer them on or help retrieve "renegade" balls.*
- When every team is finished, read the verse aloud with the kids.
- *NOTE: Save the "Memory Verse Strips" and cups for use next week.*

What You Say:

"You guys did a great job being patient. You kept going until you got a ball in each cup. Way to go!

"When are some times it's hard for you to be patient? *(Pause.)* Is it hard to be patient when you have to wait in line or wait for your turn? *(Pause.)* Is it hard to wait for food when you're REALLY hungry? *(Pause.)* Is it hard to wait for something that you really want? *(Pause.)*

"There are lots of times when we need to wait for things, and learning to be patient takes time. Who can help you learn to be patient? *(Pause.)* Yes, God can! That's the one thing to remember today. **[Bottom Line]** When you need to wait, ask God for patience. He loves you, and He'll help!"

10:20 / 12:20

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Candies from Social

What You Do:

- Use the conversation below to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

“Sometimes waiting can be hard! What are some things you can do to help you wait patiently? (*Sing, dance, play a game, draw or color, talk with a friend, read, or look at a book.*) More than anything else, WHO can help you be patient? Yes! God can. And when you believe in Jesus, you have God’s Holy Spirit to help you be patient.

“So, no matter what you’re waiting for, talk to God about it. He loves you, so tell Him how you feel. He can help you have peace, and He can help you be patient. Let’s pray.”

(Lead kids in prayer, asking God to help the kids be patient even when it’s hard. Thank Him for His love and for His Holy Spirit, Who helps us. Then allow kids who didn’t eat their candy to choose two more pieces. Praise them for their patience!)