

# 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.

## 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.*

## 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!”

## 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!)*