

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 your kids by name. 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.

1. What Are You Waiting For?

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

What You Need: Paper, pencils, (*optional*) timer/stopwatch

What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of paper and a pencil to each child.
- Instruct kids to list things they have to wait for. Tell them to make sure their neighbors can't see their lists.
- Give them two minutes to write down as many answers as they can.
- When the two minutes are up, select one child to share his list.
- Kids should check their own lists and cross off any answers that match those shared by that kid.
- Continue letting kids share their lists until everyone has a list of answers that are unique to them.
- Instruct kids to tally up their points: one point for every unique answer.

What You Say:

Waiting is never easy to do! No matter your age, you will always have to wait for something.

[Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a man who waited a LONG time for

something that had been promised to him. Let's find out if he waited with patience or if he gave up."

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. Pass It On

[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: Beanbag

What You Do:

- Guide the kids to circle up and sit on the floor.
- Play music on your smart phone or hum or sing a tune as the kids pass the beanbag around the circle.
- Stop the music (or singing/ humming) after the beanbag makes several passes around the circle. Make them wait for it!
- Read a question from the list below.
- Allow the kid holding the beanbag when the music stops to select a friend to answer.
- The kid selected may get help from friends if he needs it.
- Continue passing the beanbag and stopping the music at random until all questions have been asked and answered.

Review Questions:

1. Today's Bible story is about a man named what? (*Simeon*)
2. What promise did God make to Simeon? (*That he would see the Messiah before He died*)
3. Did God give a specific date or time when he would meet the Messiah? (*No! Simeon had to wait.*)
4. Who came to the temple to have their baby dedicated? (*Mary and Joseph*)
5. Who was the baby? (*Jesus, the Messiah*)
6. God's Spirit prompted Simeon to go the temple courtyard. What happened? (*Simeon held the baby, praised God, and said a prayer of dedication*)
7. How did Mary and Joseph respond when Simeon prayed for Jesus? (*They were amazed*)
8. Why do you think Mary and Joseph responded this way? (*They were surprised that Simeon recognized who Jesus really was, even though he was only eight days old*)
9. How do you think Simeon felt after meeting Jesus that day? (*Grateful, happy, excited that he was able to meet the SAVIOR*)
10. Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? What happened?

What You Say:

“Waiting isn’t easy. Most of the time, we want what we want right now. I’m sure Simeon was anxious and wondered when or if God would fulfill His promise. But I think all that waiting and trusting actually caused Simeon’s faith to grow! And I’m thankful that he relied on God to help him in the waiting. God can help us, too. **[Bottom Line] When you need to wait, ask God for patience.**”

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you had to wait for something as a kid. Were you patient? Why or why not? Did you think to ask God to help you wait?)

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

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

What You Need: Plastic tablecloth, clear plastic food-grade gloves, permanent marker, cotton balls (10 per child), pipe cleaners, small bowls, bottle of water, towel, packet of seeds, “Parent Notes” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Cover the floor of your small group area with a plastic tablecloth.
- Explain that kids will get to create a garden in a glove to take home!
- Pass out a glove to each child.
- Pass the permanent marker around the circle, and instruct the kids write their name and today’s date on the palm of their glove.
- Make sure the marker is returned to you when the kids are finished and secure the lid.
- Hand out ten cotton balls to each child.
- Give each child a bowl. Walk around the circle and pour an inch or two of water into each one.
- Encourage the kids to carefully wet five of their cotton balls, one at a time, by placing a ball into the water to saturate it and then gently squeezing out the excess.
- When the cotton balls are wet, guide kids to place a cotton ball into each finger of their glove and then place three or four seeds on each cotton ball.
- Next, kids will wet the remaining five cotton balls, squeeze out the excess water, and place them on top of the seeds in each finger.
- When finished, they should have a cotton ball, seeds, and another cotton ball in each finger, creating a sort of cotton ball sandwich.
- Encourage children to blow air into their glove to puff it up and then twist the top and secure it with a pipe cleaner. You may need to assist with this.
- Gather all bowls to discard any remaining water, and roll up the plastic tablecloth.
- Set the gloves aside along with a “Parent Note” for pick up.

What You Say:

“When you get home today, I want you to tape your glove to a window so that it can get some sun. Check on your glove each day to see if your seeds have sprouted. This will require patience! This process will take several days. In nine to fourteen days, your plants should be large enough to transplant into a small pot with soil. You will need to ask an adult to help with this.

“The coolest part about using a clear glove is that you will be able to see the seeds burst and the plant begin to emerge. Waiting is a bit easier when we can see what’s happening or we know what’s going on, isn’t it? But in most cases, waiting is very uncertain. We can’t always see the changes taking place or even know if what we’re waiting for will actually happen. That’s when we need to remember that God is in control and we can trust Him as we wait. His Spirit will help us when we choose to rely on Him. Remember, **[Bottom Line] when you need to wait, ask God for patience.**”

3. One Word at a Time

[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

What You Do:

- Circle up the kids to sit on the floor.
- Open Bibles to Galatians 5:22-23a and quickly review this month’s verse together.
- Challenge the kids to say the verse popcorn style: one word per kid at random around the circle.
 - They’ll need to watch each other. If two kids say the same word at the same time, they must start the verse over again.
 - This will require patience, as they’ll need to pay attention to the friends around them so they don’t double up on the same word.
- Repeat the complete verse in the same way two or three more times.
- If you choose, time the group to see if they can do this faster and faster!

What You Say:

“That was crazy! You really had to pay attention and be patient to make sure you didn’t say the same word at the same time. Patience is hard, but I’m so thankful to know that God doesn’t expect me to be patient on my own. He will ALWAYS help me so I can be loving and kind and joyful and gentle and faithful and peaceful and PATIENT! **[Bottom Line] When you need to wait, ask God for patience.**”

10:20 / 12:20

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Kids’ garden gloves from the “Watch It Grow” activity

What You Do:

- Pass out the gloves for the kids to hold.

- Talk for a minute about how a farmer carefully plants, waters, tends to, and ultimately waits for his crop to produce fruit.
- Pray together that God would work in us to produce the good “fruit” of patience in us.

What You Say:

“Farmers understand patience. They plow the field, then plant, then water, and then tend to the soil for a LONG time before they see any ‘fruit’ from all that labor. As you watch your seeds sprout over the next few days, think about a farmer and the patience it takes to do such a big job. And **[Bottom Line]** when you need to wait, ask God for patience. Let’s pray.

“Heavenly Father, You are an amazing, loving, and mighty God. Thank You for the gift of Your Spirit when we put our trust in Jesus. Thank You for helping us to show patience when it’s the last thing we feel like doing. When we’re tempted to become angry or frustrated or impatient, help us to rely on You for help. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”