

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.

GETTING READY

What You Need:

- Bible
- Singer(s) who can confidently perform the karaoke songs (this could be a Small Group Leader, a Worship Leader, or maybe a couple of different people)
- Printed copy of the script for the singer
- Microphone on a stand
- Spotlight (if possible)
- Beatles wig
- Acoustic guitar (*optional*)
- Long Tarzan-looking wig
- Prop spear
- Box fan
- Maui’s magical fish hook (from *Moana*)—or a tooth and claw necklace, or a muscle chest shirt if the singer is male
- Top hat

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Instrumental/karaoke versions of the following songs:
 - “Yesterday” by the Beatles
 - “Strangers Like Me” from *Tarzan* (Phil Collins)
 - “Someone Like You” by Adele
 - “You’re Welcome” from *Moana* (Dwayne Johnson)
 - “A Million Dreams” from *The Greatest Showman*

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- Recruit a singer (or singers) who are confident enough to perform the karaoke songs in the script, ideally from memory. The goal isn’t for them to necessarily sound great, but for them to emote and convey the song lyrics clearly. You may want to have two or three different singers, or even have a different person perform each song.

- Set up a microphone on a stand for the singer(s). If possible, focus a spotlight on it.
- When looking for karaoke tracks, try to find true instrumentals—i.e. without backing vocals that would compete with the parody lyrics. (Preview the tracks first to see if they have any backing vocals.)

Here again, if you find it difficult to identify a good singer able and willing to take on the songs and lyrics, you could simplify the lesson and tell the story of Simeon in your own creative and captivating way. The goal is understanding and desiring the gift of PATIENCE.

Worship

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “I hope you’re all powered up for what we have in store today, because you’re in for a treat. Not only do I have a great Bible story of patience to share with you (*hold up Bible*), but we’re also sharing it in a very special way. Yes, that’s right. It’s time for Karaoke Theater! Please welcome (name) to the stage.

Singer enters and stands behind the mic stand.

“As I tell you the story, [Singer’s name] will help enhance the action through the beauty of song. Open ears, open hearts, game faces on . . . it’s time to learn about a patient man named Simeon. [Singer’s name], kick us off!

Singer puts on a Beatles wig and picks up an acoustic or toy guitar (optional).

LIGHTS: *Spotlight on singer (if possible)*

SFX: *Instrumental/karaoke version of “Yesterday” by the Beatles*

SINGER:

Simeon

A good and godly guy, who hardly sins
He’s just a man, not an amphibian
It’s Simeon, so let’s begin

STORYTELLER: “The Beatles. Kicking it old-school—I like it. Okay, now that we’ve established that Simeon wasn’t a salamander . . .”

SINGER: “You try rhyming something with Simeon. Meridian? Olympian?”

STORYTELLER: “A fair point. Before we get into Simeon’s story, let me give you some back story.

“When Jesus returned to heaven about 40 days after God raised Him from the dead, God sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper. But actually, the Holy Spirit had been working on things from the beginning of time. He was at work through through creation, He helped Gideon defeat armies larger than his own, He gave Samson his strength, and He was with David as he prayed.

“In today’s story, the Spirit spoke to a faithful man named Simeon.”

PRAYERS AT THE TEMPLE

STORYTELLER: “Simeon would have heard all about God’s promise to Israel—that one day He would send a Savior. Leaders and prophets throughout history had predicted that God would one day give them a rescuer. Simeon heard all of these promises, and he believed them. He was waiting for God’s promise to come true. Simeon spent a lot of time praying and listening to the Holy Spirit. One day while he was praying, the Spirit told him that he would not die before he had seen the Savior.

Singer puts on a long Tarzan-looking wig and holds a prop spear.

LIGHTS: *Spotlight on singer (if possible)*

SFX: *Instrumental/karaoke version of “Strangers Like Me” from Tarzan (Phil Collins)*

SINGER:

Whatever You do, I’ll pray it, too
Show me everything and tell me how
The Holy Spirit’s awakened something inside me

With all the people there’s much concern
That one day You’ll send a Rescuer
I wanna see Your people set free
Oh, I just know there’s somethin’ bigger out there

I wanna know
Can you show me
I wanna know about this Savior like me
Tell me more
Can you show me
Something’s familiar about this Savior like me

COULD IT BE?

STORYTELLER: “Simeon knew he had to be patient. After all, God didn’t say WHEN he would get to see the Savior—just that it would happen someday before he died.

“One day, years later, God’s Spirit prompted Simeon to go to the temple courtyard. It was the day he had been waiting for. God led Simeon to the temple that day because it was the very day Mary and Joseph were bringing their new baby Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to God. Simeon couldn’t believe his eyes. After all those years, after all of his prayers, the Savior he was waiting for was now before him—right before his eyes!

Turn on the box fan and hold it up in front of the singer.

LIGHTS: *Spotlight on singer (if possible)*

SFX: *Instrumental/karaoke version of “Someone Like You” by Adele*

SINGER:

I heard that you were coming down

That you brought your Child, that you've brought Him out
I heard that our dreams came true
That you brought to us this little Savior, too

(Looking up)
Oh God, why are you so kind
You never hold back
Oh, You send us the light

I hate to turn up to the temple uninvited but I
Couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it
I had hoped to see His face one time before I died
And that for me it isn't over

God said I'd find someone like You
You brought nothing but the best of You, too
Don't forsake us, I beg
I remember God said
Sometime I'll send My Son
To mend all our hurts instead
Oh, the Savior's come
To mend all our hurts instead

Turn off the box fan and set it down.

YOU'RE WELCOME

STORYTELLER: "Simeon knew immediately that Jesus was the Son of God. The only way that he could've known this was because the Holy Spirit told him so! He had waited a long time for this moment. He swooped baby Jesus up in his arms and praised God. Listen to Simeon's prayer.

Open the Bible to Luke 2:29-32 (NirV) and read.

"Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all nations. It is a light to be given to the Gentiles. It will be the glory of your people Israel.

"In other words, Simeon knew that Jesus had come to be the Savior—not just for Israel, but for the whole WORLD. It was like God was saying, 'Jesus has come for EVERYONE. Everyone is welcome! (*Point around in the air.*) You and you and you . . . all of you—you're welcome!"

LIGHTS: *Spotlight on singer (if possible)*

SFX: *Instrumental/karaoke version of "You're Welcome" from Moana (Dwayne Johnson)*

Singer picks up Maui's magical fish hook (other options: a tooth and claw necklace, or a muscle chest shirt if the singer is male).

SINGER:

I see what's happening here
I'm face to face with greatness and it's strange
I don't even know how to feel . . . He's adorable!
Well, it's nice to know that God's plan hasn't changed
He's opened my eyes from within
Yes, it's really Him, it's Jesus, breathe it in!
I know it's a lot, should I applaud
When I'm staring at the Son of God?

Well, what can I say, except, "You're welcome!"
The Savior has arrived
Hey, it's okay, it's okay, you're welcome!
Jesus isn't just a normal guy

Hey! Who is the One who makes heaven smile
And does all of the things in style?
This Child!

When the nights get cold, who brings you fire for your soul?
You're lookin' at Him, yo!

Oh! Also, He's God's only Son
You're welcome!
To cleanse your sin and bring you fun
Also, it's God's guarantee
You're welcome!
To lift you up and set you free!

So, what can I say except, "You're welcome!"
That's what the Spirit promised to me
I prayed and I prayed, let me say,
"You're welcome!"
I guess good things can come from Galilee
You're welcome!
You're welcome!

(Look up)
And thank You!

"Mary and Joseph were totally amazed at what Simeon was saying—that God would make the WHOLE WORLD right through Jesus.

"Simeon went on to tell Mary that many would rise and many would fall in Israel—all because of Jesus, and all because God had sent Him. He also said that unfortunately, many would not understand Jesus and speak out against Him. Many people's hearts would be shown for what they are because of Jesus. And lastly, he told Mary that her own soul would be wounded, too. He was foretelling how sad Mary would be later when Jesus died on the cross."

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Simeon had finally seen the Savior—the one he had been waiting for. Though some of the words God had given him to share were difficult, every moment of his patient waiting had paid off.

(*To singer*) “[Singer’s name], do you have a big finish for us?”

Singer puts on a top hat.

LIGHTS: *Spotlight on singer (if possible)*

SFX: *Instrumental/karaoke version of “A Million Dreams” from The Greatest Showman*

SINGER:

I closed my eyes and prayed that He
Would be the Savior that we need
To call our own

Through the dark, through the door
He’s like no one’s been before
And He calls me home

They can say, they can say it all sounds crazy
They can say, they can say I’ve lost my mind
But I don’t care, I don’t care, so call me crazy
I will pray for a miracle divine

And every promise I have read
And everything that God has said
A million sins completely washed away

I think of what the world could be
When God fulfills the prophecy
No matter how long it’s gonna take
‘Cause this baby Boy—I know He’s worth the wait

STORYTELLER: (*Wipe eyes.*) “Beautiful. Just beautiful. How about a big hand for [singer’s name]?”

Storyteller leads applause as Singer exits.

“Simeon’s patience paid off in the end, because God ALWAYS keeps His promises. But waiting isn’t always easy, is it? It’s especially tough when we want something right now. So in those times when you need to wait, ask God for help.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

[Bottom Line] “When you need to wait, ask God for patience.

“His Spirit can help us choose to be patient when it’s difficult to wait. Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**Pray**

“God, we know that sometimes we can get impatient. Actually, we get impatient a lot. Would You please help us to learn patience through the power of your Holy Spirit? Help us to learn from Simeon’s example. He waited and waited, and he prayed and prayed, because He trusted You. He knew You would keep Your promises. Please help us to trust You like he did . . . and be patient. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Closer

“Waiting. It can be really hard sometimes. When we’re waiting to be seated at a restaurant and we’re SO hungry, we’re like: ‘Ugh. What am I going to DO for 15 minutes?’ When we’re riding in the car, we always want to know: ‘Are we there yet?’ We want everything right now—right this second. And if we don’t get it right this second—and we’re not distracted or occupied with some kind of screen—we tend to get really bent out of shape. Am I right?”

“Patience isn’t easy. That’s why I’m so glad we have the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help you wait patiently for things—even if there are no video games or phones in sight.

“God promised something to Simeon, and Simeon had to wait years to get it. But like any fruit has to grow before it’s good to eat, patience needs time to grow in you. It’s something God can grow in you over time.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you need to wait, ask God for patience.

“Talk to God. Tell Him how you feel. Ask Him to help you wait without complaining or getting frustrated. Because you know what? His Spirit can help you power up with patience! Remember, **[Basic Truth] you can trust God no matter what.** You can trust Him to help you wait (*deep breath*) . . . with patience.

“Guess what you DON’T have to wait for? Small Group—because we’re headed there right now! Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.