

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.

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.”

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, figurine, 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.
 - Figurine
 - 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?

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 sit 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.”