



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'm with You
Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you waiting
for right now?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is with you while you wait.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Wait for the Lord. Be strong
and don't lose hope. Wait
for the Lord."**
Psalm 27:14, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Patience—Waiting until later
for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, pray that you would be able to have meaningful conversation with your kids about waiting and how hard it can be. Pray that you would help them be able to process what it means to have a God whose Spirit is with them in the midst of their waiting.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, coins, stopwatch or timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids where the offering container is located and invite them to place their offerings there.
- Give each kid a coin.
- Explain and demonstrate the following steps to prepare kids for a game of "Minute to Catch It."
 - Bend one arm at the elbow so that the forearm is horizontal to the floor and the hand is touching the shoulder.
 - With palm facing up, place the coin on top of the elbow so it is facing the ceiling.
 - Quickly snap the arm downward and try to catch the coin before it hits the ground.
- Give kids time to practice then set a timer for one minute and challenge them to see how many times they can catch the coin before time is up.
- For a greater challenge, give kids another coin and tell them to stack it on top of the first and play again. As they succeed, keep giving them more coins to see how many they can catch.
- As time allows or for additional options, play other coin challenges.
 - Coin Spin: How long can kids spin coins on a flat surface such as an uncarpeted floor or table.
 - Coin Stack: How many coins can kids stack on their foreheads while standing with heads tilted back?
 - Coin Tower: How many coins can kids stack in one minute using only one hand?



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Stopwatch or timer, *Optional: paper*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Challenge kids to a stare down to see who can stare at something the longest without blinking.
- Lead them to compete individually, with a partner, or as a group.
- Set a stopwatch or timer then begin.
- Continue with other challenges to see who can do them the longest.
 - Slow-Mo: tear a piece of paper the slowest without stopping.
 - Tongue Twister: say "Fried rice flies" as many times as you can.
 - Hold Up: hold outstretched arms out to the side.
 - Freeze Face: make a silly face and hold it without laughing.
 - Just a Minute: everyone remains seated then stands when they think it's been EXACTLY 60 seconds.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'm with You

Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Did some of those challenges test your patience? Waiting can be hard! No one enjoys waiting, but with God's help, we can learn to wait well. **[Transition]** In Large Group, we'll hear about a man who waited years and years for something. Talk about a patience workout! Even though it took a very long time, the wait was worth it."

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you waiting for right now?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared "Toss it on the Grill" Activity Pages, bean bag or rolled up sock, floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out each prepared "Toss it on the Grill" Activity Page in whatever configuration works best for your space.
- Tape each "Toss it on the Grill" Activity Page to the floor.
- Tape a line on the floor for kids to stand behind.
- Explain that kids will take turns naming a cookout food then tossing the bean bag or rolled sock onto one of the grills.
 - *NOTE: Be sure to accept a variety of food examples that represent the cultural variety represented by your group or local area.*
 - They will then answer a question to earn the points labeled on the grill.
 - If they miss hitting a grill, they can try a second time.
- Keep track of points to determine who is the "grill master."
- **[Make it Personal] Participate in this activity along with kids and share answers that kids can relate to.**
 - What is something you are waiting for right now?
 - If you knew you might have to wait many, many years for something you really wanted, how would you feel?
 - What do you remember waiting for the longest?
 - What is the hardest thing you've ever had to wait for?
 - What's something you waited for but ended up disappointed with after you got it?
 - If you knew you had to wait a long time for something, what would help you wait well?
 - What's one thing that helps you the most when you must wait longer than you'd like?
 - If you could have something right now and not have to wait, what would it be?
 - What's something you can do while waiting that doesn't require a phone or screen?
 - Why do you think God wants us to learn from waiting?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, "Sandwich Wrap" Activity Page, prepared pieces of yarn, tape; *Optional: markers and laminate*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review the story by inviting kids who enjoy reading aloud to take turns reading parts of Luke 2:25-35 to the group.
- Give each kid one "Sandwich Wrap" Activity Page cutout and a piece of yarn in each color. (Set out markers if you've chosen to use them instead of yarn.)
- Set out the rolls of tape for kids to share.
- Direct kids to tape one end of the BROWN piece of yarn to the back of the card, wrap it around the sandwich several times (filling the lower section above the bottom bun), then secure the other end of the yarn to the back of the card with another piece of tape. (If using markers, tell kids to color that section with a brown marker. Continue using corresponding colors that follow.)
 - Ask: What do you remember from the story that may have been difficult to wait for? (Israelites waiting for God's Rescuer, Simeon waiting for God's promise to see the Savior, Simeon might have doubted God's promise since he had been waiting so long)
- Lead kids to tape the end of the RED piece of yarn to the back of the sandwich, wrap it around the card several times (filling the section above the brown), and secure with tape as before.
 - Ask: What impressed you the most about Simeon? (He kept praying, he believed God's promise, he was patient)
- Next, direct kids to wrap the GREEN piece of yarn around the card to create the next layer then secure it with tape.
 - Ask: How did the people in the story show trust in God? (Mary and Joseph followed God's command to bring a sacrifice to the temple, Simeon continued to believe God's promise and pray)
- Finish by wrapping and taping the YELLOW piece of yarn around the card for the final layer.
 - Ask: What were some joyful moments in the story that made the waiting worth it? (Simeon got to meet and hold the Messiah, Mary and Joseph realized again that Jesus was special, God came through on the promise to send the Rescuer)
- When the "Sandwich Wrap" is completed, the yarn layers should resemble the layers of meat, tomato, lettuce, and cheese on a sandwich.
- Close with a short discussion to remind kids that God understands how hard it can be for us to wait patiently.
 - How do we know that God is with us while we're waiting? (God speaks to us through the Bible, God uses friends and family to encourage us to be patient, God hears our prayers, the Holy Spirit gives us power to trust God)
 - What are you waiting for right now?
 - How does it help to remember that God is with you?



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- Encourage kids to take their "Sandwich Wrap" home as a reminder that God understands it's hard for us to wait and that God promises to be with us as we do.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:
Ask:

- Describe a patient kid. Why is that kind of person more fun to be around than someone who is always impatient?
- What would you say is the secret sauce or the main thing to remember when it comes to waiting well?
- The next time you're waiting for something longer than you'd like, think of yourself as a "waiter" in a restaurant. What can you do to help, encourage, or serve others as you wait?
- Why can we have hope while we wait?

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles; *Optional: chairs*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite kids to look up Psalm 46:1 using the Bible

Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'm with You

Simeon Waits for the Messiah
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***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.*

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you waiting for right now?

- Invite kids who would like to read the verse aloud.
- Then say it together several times.
- Ask:
 - What promise do you find in this verse?
 - In what ways does a test of your patience feel like a time of trouble?
 - How is God a refuge and strength when you're facing a situation that requires some patient waiting?
 - How can waiting teach us something or make us stronger?
 - How do we become stronger in our ability to wait well?
- Sit in a circle (if possible, in chairs).
- Ask one kid to stand in the middle of the circle and remain standing throughout the following game.
- Explain that two kids in the circle must always be standing along with the kid in the middle. (Decrease this to one kid if your group is small.)
 - Kids in the circle can sit down and stand up as often as they want but can't stand for more than 5 seconds at a time.
 - There is no particular order for when kids have to stand.
- Pause the game several times to give each kid a turn in the middle if they want it.
- After the game, lead kids in making some observations.
 - Staying focused was a crucial part of the game. How does Psalm 46:1 help you know what to focus on when you're waiting?
 - How can this game remind us that God is always with us?
 - When it's really hard to wait, who would you choose to have alongside you to encourage you to be patient?
 - What can you do to remember that God is with you as you wait?
- If time allows, practice saying Psalm 46:1 together by inviting kids to echo or repeat short portions of the verse from kid to kid until everyone has recited it.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to share what they learned about patience this month in one sentence.
- Prompt them with some of the following ideas, if needed.
 - Waiting can make you wise. (Week 1)
 - When you think you can't wait, think twice. (Week 2)
 - When you have to wait, remember what's true. (Week 3)
 - God is with you while you wait. (Week 4)
- Invite kids to say a short prayer to thank God for helping them learn this month and for the kids sitting on both sides of them.
- Encourage those who would like to pray aloud to do so and the others to pray silently.
- When everyone has had time to pray, close with a final prayer.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Coins, 1-25 per kid (depending on challenges—see activity)
- Stopwatch or timer, one for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Stopwatch or timer, one for each Small Group
- *Optional:* paper

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (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.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bean bag or rolled up sock; one for each Small Group
- Floor tape
- Print "Toss it on the Grill" Activity Pages on cardstock, at least four for each Small Group
 - Print as many copies as you'd like to use in the game—see activity

- Before group time, write a point value in the center of each "Toss it on the Grill" Activity Page.

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Sandwich Wrap" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one card for every kid
 - *Optional:* laminate each "Sandwich Wrap" Activity Page cutout to prevent bending.
- Bible
- Clear tape; one roll for every 1-2 kids
- Brown, red, green, and yellow spools of yarn
 - Before group time: cut yarn to lengths of 20"; one of each color for each kid
 - *Optional:* If preferred, provide brown, red, green, and yellow markers instead of yarn.

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- *Optional:* chairs

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**