



WEEK FOUR – APRIL 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Simeon Waits for the Messiah | Luke 2:25-35*

Bottom Line: *God is with you while you wait.*

Memory Verse: *“Wait for the LORD. Be strong + don’t lose hope. Wait for the LORD.” – Psalm 27:14*

Virtue: *Patience – Waiting until later for what you want now*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don’t have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what’s best for us. God sent Jesus. Because we’re created in God’s image, we can reflect God’s patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God’s Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.

Bottom Line: **God is with you while you wait.** We might have to wait for something small, like in a line at the ice cream stand . . . or we might have to wait for something big, like for a parent to get a new job. While it’s true that patience is harder in some situations than others, we pray that kids will remember that they don’t have to wait on their own. They can trust that God is with them while they wait.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Smartphone

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Lead kids in the “Peanut Butter and Jelly” rhyme and motions.
- If time allows, add variety (and fun!) by leading kids to say the rhyme in voices they might hear at a cookout: a baby voice, a grandparent voice, or even a dog voice!
- Head to one of the links below and listen to the “Peanut Butter and Jelly” rhyme so that everyone can get familiar with it if need be.
 - Option 1: <https://bit.ly/3RyLTBL>
 - Option 2: <https://bit.ly/481T9gg>

What You Say:

“Great job! [Transition] In Large Group, we’ll hear about someone who waited a VERY long time to hold a VERY special Baby. Let’s go learn more.”

9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We finish the month with a story found in **Luke 2:25-35**. God’s people had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Savior. God promised Simeon that he’d get to see the Messiah before he died. We believe that Simeon waited a long time. But finally, when Mary and Joseph came to the temple with Baby Jesus, Simeon finally saw what he’d been waiting for.

9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 | SMALL GROUP

Tick Tock Wait Around the Clock

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Around the Clock” Activity Page, crayons or markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a circle from the “Around the Clock” Activity Page.
 - Make sure all 12 circles are handed out. It’s fine if kids have more than one!
- Set out the crayons or markers.
- As kids color, ask questions to help them review the story. Touch on the following key points:
 - One day, as Simeon prayed, God’s Spirit spoke to him and said, “You will not die before you see the Lord’s Messiah.” (*Explain the Messiah is God’s Rescuer the Israelites waited and hoped for, for hundreds and hundreds of years.*)
 - Simeon waited . . . and waited . . . and WAITED.
 - Years later, God’s Spirit told Simeon to go to the temple courtyard.
 - Simeon quickly obeyed.
 - While he was there, Simeon saw Jesus!
 - At this time, baby Jesus was only eight days old, and Mary and Joseph had brought Him to the Temple so they could dedicate Him to God.
- When kids finish coloring, arrange the images in order in a circle to create a “clock.”
 - Use the images to review the story, reading the text in each speech bubble to the group.

What You Say:

“Simeon waited for God’s promise to come true. (Point to the images around the “clock” as you say:) Through all this time, Simeon waited patiently, and with joy, trusting God’s promise. And when the time was right, JESUS, God’s one and only Son, sent to be our Savior, arrived. (Point to the image of Simeon holding baby Jesus.) And Simeon held baby Jesus in his arms, just as God’s Spirit had promised! Wow! Simeon praised God and said, ‘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’ (Luke 2:29-30 NIV). Simeon didn’t know how the rest of God’s story would unfold. But he did know that every minute had been worth the wait!

*“God promises us that no matter how long WE have to wait, in the end God will make everything right for those who follow Jesus. Even more, **[Bottom Line]** God is with you while you wait.”*

PB&J Paradigm

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, decks of “PB&J Cards” Activity Pages, and paper plates

What You Do:

- Divide your group into groups of four. (It’s okay if there are groups of three.)
- Give each group a Bible.
- Help kids look up and “read” the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Psalms* at the top of the page as you say “Psalms” aloud. Then guide kids to find the big number 27 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 27 for the little 14; this is the verse number. Tell

them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- ***Finding verses with 1st graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.
- Show the kids a set of the “PB&J Cards” Activity Pages to review the Memory Verse.
- Invite the kids to repeat the phrase on each card after you.
- Lead kids in a variation of Slamwich[®].
- Give each group a deck of cards prepared from the “PB&J Cards” Activity Pages.
 - Each group will get 40 cards (10 sets).
- Guide one kid in each group to deal all the cards.
 - Some kids may have more cards than others (if you have groups of three), and that’s okay.
- Direct kids to stack their cards facedown. (No peeking!)
- Set a paper plate in the center of each group’s playing area.
- Instruct the kid to the left of the dealer to go first.
- Moving around the circle to the left, direct the kids to take turns flipping over their top card and putting it on the paper plate.
- Instruct everyone in the group to read the cards aloud together.
- If the kids spot a PB&J sandwich—bread, peanut butter, jelly, bread (which is also Psalm 27:14)—direct them to slap the center pile and shout “PB&J!”
 - Kids can also be looking for the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 to show a completed set.
- Continue play as time allows.

- NOTE: When a kid runs out of cards, shuffle all the cards and begin the game again.

What You Say:

“(Use a Bible to read Psalm 27:14 to the group.) “This month, we heard about some people who lost hope and didn’t wait for the Lord. Esau gave up his future as leader of his family for a bowl of stew. And the Israelites stopped waiting for Moses, lost hope, and worshiped a statue of a golden calf!

“But Simeon showed us how we can be strong, not lose hope, and wait for the Lord. One day, God promised Simeon that he would see the Savior before he died. Did God’s promise come true quickly? (No!) No, Simeon waited a long time to see Jesus, but he never lost hope! Simeon trusted God.

“We can trust God and wait too. When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit. (Use a Bible to read Psalm 27:14 to the group one more time. Invite the kids to say it with you.) So remember, [Bottom Line] God is with you while you wait.”

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

“When Simeon saw Baby Jesus at the temple, he praised God and said, ‘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’ (Luke 2:30-32 NIrV). Simeon declared that Jesus is God’s Messiah! He said Jesus had come to rescue not only Jewish people but everyone, everywhere, for all time! In

the end, Jesus would give up His life. But even then, God’s plan wasn’t finished, because God brought Jesus back to life so that when you believe in Jesus and follow Him, you’ll live with God forever! Wow!

“It’s okay if you don’t understand all of this yet. But if you have any questions or want to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, you can talk to your parents, me, or any of the other leaders.

NOTE: Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Involve families with this discussion or decisions as well. It might be a good idea to simply “plant the seeds.”

“But here’s something you can hold on to—Jesus wants to be your closest friend right now, and He wants to be with you forever! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to live, die, and come back to life so that we can be with You FOREVER. You want to be with _____ [name of kid] forever. You want to be with _____ [name of kid] forever. (Repeat with each kid’s name.) Help us grow in patience while we wait. Help us be strong and not lose hope. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”