



WEEK FOUR – JUNE 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Right Here Waiting* • Luke 2:22–35

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: *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

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

Summary: In Luke 2:22–35 we read about Simeon. God promised Simeon that he would live to see the Messiah. While we’re not sure how long he waited, he must have been so excited when the Holy Spirit led him into the temple courtyard where Simeon saw Mary and Joseph with Jesus! God’s promises were true, and seeing Jesus was worth the wait!

PRE-SERVICE SOCIAL ACTIVITY

1. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: Painter's Tape

What You Do:

- Divide into two teams.
- Direct each team to stand shoulder-to-shoulder between the two lines of tape designated for them.
- Explain that the first person in line must change places with the last person without stepping outside the lines of tape.
- When the switch is completed, the next two players can swap places.
- Continue until the whole team has switched places. The first team to finish is the winner.
 - *Note: If you have a small number of students, play as one team using a stopwatch to time the switch then repeat to see if they can beat the first time.*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What do you do when you have to wait? We can't escape it. Waiting is just a part of life. How we wait can show others how much we trust God. Preteens will discover how they can respond to those moments in life when they need an extra dose of patience. We pray this lesson will help them realize how they can trust God while they wait.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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.”

2. Discussion Questions**[Application Activity]**

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

What You Need: N/A**What You Do:**

- Ask:
 - If you could name one thing that is most often at the root of impatience, what would it be? In other words, why do we get annoyed?
 - What do you typically do when you have to wait for something small? What about for something big?
 - If you could name one thing that is the key ingredient to patience for someone who follows Jesus, what would it be?
 - How is being patient different than just gritting your teeth and keeping your frustration inside?

- If you find yourself often losing your patience over the same things, what can you do when you are in that situation again?
- What are the consequences of being an impatient person?
- What are the benefits of being a patient person?

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Consider inviting students to kneel 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 your 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.”

