



WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

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, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for always being with us, especially when we're in phases of waiting. Ask Him to give your kids patience as they wait for "normal" life to return. (Ask Him to do the same for you, too!) For kids in situations where they're waiting for something big (a job for a parent, the healing of an ill family member), ask God to make His

presence known in those kids' hearts. Thank Him for being a God who always keeps His promises!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Wait for It

Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you have to wait remember God is with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive and welcome them to Small Group.
- Instruct all kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- When a few kids have arrived, tell them that you will give them a series of challenges and time them to see if they can do those challenges for one minute.
- Time each activity for one minute, cheer on the kids, and make a big deal when they get to the last ten seconds.
- Ask: Can you do this activity for a whole minute?
 - Hold your arms out straight in front of you without moving.
 - Hold a squat or plank.
 - Hop on one foot.
 - Pat your head and rub your tummy.
 - Snap your fingers continuously.
 - Do push-ups, sit-ups, or burpees.
 - Clap loudly.
 - Do "fast feet" without stopping (basically, super-fast, running in place).
 - Make "Itsy Bitsy Spider" hand motions continuously.
 - Hum the ABC song continuously.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pillowcase or large tote bag and variety of small items

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle and choose one kid to start

first.

- Instruct that kid to put their hand in the bag and grab an object.
- Ask the kid to guess what the item is before they pull it out of the bag.
- When everyone has an item, ask each kid to think of a time in their life that their item reminds them of or represents.
- For example:
 - A birthday hat is for birthdays.
 - A Christmas ornament is for Christmas.
 - Baby shoes are for being a baby or raising a baby.
- Set the items on top of the bag so the kids can see them as you discuss.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“These things represent a lot of events in a person’s life—a whole lifetime of them! In our Bible story, we heard about Simeon, who probably waited most of his life to see the Messiah who God promised.

“Simeon probably waited through birthdays—his own and his kids’ and maybe even his kids’ kids’! He probably waited while he studied and worked, while he grew up, then grew old. He kept coming to the temple and waiting. Why do you think he didn’t give up? *(Invite responses.)*

“Simeon knew that **When you have to wait, remember God is with you.** God never left Simeon, and He never gave up on His promise. When have you had to wait for something?” *(Invite responses—when a parent is busy; when you want a snack but it’s not time; during the recent pandemic restrictions, we all had to wait to go back to our routines; wait for a movie or video game to release, etc.)*

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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 and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



A LIFETIME SO FAR

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Long roll of butcher or craft paper, scissors, crayons or markers, rulers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a large piece of craft paper.
- Set the coloring materials and rulers out where all kids can reach them.
- Demonstrate to kids how to use the ruler and marker to make a long line down the length of their paper.
- On the left side of the line, tell kids to write their birthdays—the day they were born!
- On the right side of the line, tell kids today’s month, day, and year and ask them to write it down on the butcher paper.
- Underneath the date, instruct them to write “Came to Small Group.”
- Between those two points—their birthday and the present—help kids think of events that have happened between when they were born and today.
- Instruct them to write those events along the timeline, in order of when they happened.
- They can write in life events like:
 - When they moved into new houses
 - Special birthday parties
 - Special holidays
 - Vacations
 - When they reached new grade levels
 - Family changes
 - Dates when they got their prized possessions, etc.
- Encourage kids to decorate their timelines with drawings or notes about the specific events they mentioned.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“You all have lived a lot in your lives! Let’s look at these cool timelines. *(Point out some significant events in the kids’ lives and be sure plenty of those you point out are ‘ordinary’ in order not to set up comparison.)*”

“Let me tell you something amazing—God was with you before this *(point to birthday)* and will be with you all the way until . . . *(run your finger up their timeline then all the way off the page)* forever!

“All of these events are things you had to wait for—even if you don’t remember some of them. They didn’t happen all at once on your birth date. But God has always been with you and will always be with you. No matter if you’re waiting to lose your first tooth, ride without training wheels, waiting for middle school, or for your first phone, whatever it is. **When you have to wait, remember God is with you.**”



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(A LIFETIME SO FAR, CONTINUED)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- In general, when is it hardest for you to have patience?
- What is the biggest thing you're waiting for right now? How does it feel?
- Why do you think God told Simeon about meeting the Messiah so long before it happened?
- Why didn't God wait and tell him the morning he would meet Jesus? Why do you think God made Simeon wait?





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TAKE HEART

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Stuffed heart pillow, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Use the Bible Navigation Tips below and look up the memory verse with the group.
- Divide the group into two lines.
- Instruct the kids to stand shoulder to shoulder with the lines facing each other, three feet apart.
- Give one of the kids at the end of the line the stuffed heart.
- Instruct that kid to say the first word of the memory verse then toss the heart to the kid across from them (the first kid in that line).
- Direct that kid to say the next word in the memory verse then toss the heart to second kid in the line across from them.
- Continue all the way down the lines until the entire verse is said.
- If you have a smaller group, when the heart has travelled down the line, direct the kids to send the pillow back down to the first kid who held the heart and pick up reciting the verse where you left off.

***Finding verses with a multi-age group:** Guide all kids 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, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kid finds Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 27, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 14 in chapter 27. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers, or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.*

WHAT YOU SAY:

“I’m glad we got to share this verse! It reminds us that we can be encouraged while we wait because God is working. We can wait for God to work out His plan in His time, just like Simeon did.

“Whenever you see a heart this week, let it be a reminder that **when you have to wait, remember that God is with you.** You never know when God’s plan might happen right in front of you.”



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(TAKE HEART, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time when you waited for God's plan for something in your life. How did you feel while waiting? What happened that made you recognize, like Simeon, that you were seeing God at work? Invite kids to share stories from their families or stories that they've heard.)





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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 processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Remind them of "Early Arriver" when they tried to do something active for one minute.
- Encourage the kids to take a deep breath, relax, and get ready to do something else for a minute—be silent and wait.
- Start the timer.
- If there is a disruption, either redirect the kids to silence, or start the minute over.
- When a minute has passed, ask the kids the questions below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Wait for It
Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How did it feel to be silent for a minute? (*Invite responses.*) Was it easier to be silent for a minute or do push-ups for a minute like you did earlier? (*Invite responses.*)"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you have to wait remember God is with you.

"Waiting can feel different depending on what we do while we're waiting. If you're waiting for something this week, find a good way to pass the time and build your patience—help a friend, write a letter to a grandparent, do your sibling's chores, make up a new game to play at home. But whatever you do to pass the time, **when you have to wait, remember God is with you.** Let's pray.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us. You never leave us alone to wait all by ourselves. Please help us learn patience as we wait and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their families their timelines. Adults can feel free to add to it this week during GodTime or other devotional times.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

