



IT'S WORTH THE WAIT

WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2021

LARGE GROUP

K-6

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Wait for It

Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to have patience?

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.

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MONTHLY CHALLENGE - PATIENCE
- Each grade share stories every week with your leaders of YOU showing patience
- We will celebrate/show how much PATIENCE we can share this month by grade level
- MOVIE NIGHT - MARCH 12 - CROODS: New Age

WORSHIP:

- THE BEST IS YET TO COME
- GOOD GRACE

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME SLIDE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [name of environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that is happening currently, like the crazy weather, March Madness (if it is happening), movie openings, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

There is a cooler set on a table in full view of the group. See "What You Do" in the Getting Ready section below.

OPENER

HOST: "Kids! Friends! Small Group Leaders! It's March! Such a great month with all those hints of spring. Let's be honest, last year, the month of March was in-sane. Talk about *March Madness*. That's when everything first shut down from COVID-19, remember? It feels like it was 10 years ago. Everything shut down, can't see your friends, bathing in hand sanitizer—and many of us are still dealing with it! If the pandemic taught us one thing; it was how to have patience.

"That, and how to go to the bathroom with no toilet paper, because someone bought all of it and hoarded it in his garage.

"Quick question, does anyone here totally love waiting for things? (Pause for response.) Yeah, that's what I thought. Waiting can be the worst. Pretty much everyone seems impatient these days. Someone's always freaking out about something, right? WIFI doesn't download your show fast enough, yell at your brother and freak out. The car in front sits like three seconds after the light turns green, they get honked at as the rest of the drivers freak out. I'd bet some of you even get mad when your clothes don't go on right, trying to put on your shirt and you put it on backwards!

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"Don't lie. . . I know you've done it.

"It's a good thing we have a game to help you re-learn how to dress yourselves! It's pretty simple, actually. All you have to do is put on a t-shirt over whatever you're wearing. First one to do it wins. The only problem with that, though, is . . .

Walk over to the cooler, open it, take out the frozen t-shirts and slam them on the table.

"The t-shirts are frozen. That's right, we're about to play: "Wait, Wait It's FROZEN!"

SLIDE: "WAIT, WAIT IT'S FROZEN!" TITLE SLIDE

"Let's get five volunteers up here to try these on! Who's up for a quick wardrobe change?"

Choose five volunteers. Set them up behind the table, each with a frozen t-shirt in front of them.

"Okay, all you have to do is get them on. First one to do that wins! Ready? Set? Go!

Encourage the crowd to cheer for who they think will win. When someone gets a t-shirt on first, declare them the winner.

"Give it up for [name of winner]! Don't worry, the rest of you volunteers won't be ice-olated. (Pause for response.) We won't give you the . . . cold shoulder. (Pause for response.) Please, I beg you, don't . . . cold a grudge. (Pause for response.) Yeah. That was bad. ANYWAY! Parting gifts for all of our volunteers!

Give out prizes, lead the large group in applause.

"As frustrating as that was, trying to make ice melt faster, the next part of our morning is the total opposite. I won't make you wait any longer, kids, it's time to worship!

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I'm excited that we get to lift up the name of Jesus together. There's nobody like Him. There's no better FRIEND than Him! Let's sing and celebrate Him together.

AUDIO: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

AUDIO: GOOD GRACE

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Simeon had finally, finally seen the Savior. Jesus had been born, and God's promise was made true because Simeon did in fact meet Jesus before he passed away.

"These things that Isaiah and all of the prophets foretold, hundreds of years before, all came true. God kept His promise. But during all of the waiting, during the years and years without a promise fulfilled, how hard do you suppose it was for Simeon to hold on if he didn't know when it was going to happen?

"How hard would it be for you? Honestly, how many of us would just give up and forget about it?

"God's with you in the waiting. If you're patient, and remember He's there with you, you'll see that His promises exceed anything you could ever imagine!

"When you're finding yourself careening toward impatience, do what Simeon did. He prayed. God's always there, so when things are super frustrating, like, oh, I don't know, waiting for the world to get back to normal because of a global pandemic . . . just pray. Tell God about it. He's there, and He'll always be with you.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"When you have to wait, remember God is with you.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

COMMUNICATOR: "As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"When is it hard to have patience? I mean, besides pretty much all of the time. But when, specifically, are the times when it's tricky to have patience? Think about it. You'll dig deeper in your Small Group to discover how you can find patience during those times are, but before we head there, let's pray."

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You so much for the story of Simeon. He waited and waited for Your promise to come true, and You were with him all the way! Thank You for keeping Your promise to send a Savior to rescue us. Please help us remember that You're with us when WE have to wait. Help us trust You and be patient. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."