

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/or working as a group



*Before kids arrive, pray for patience for yourself as you spend time with your kids talking about patience. Pray that this would be an amazing month building relationships with your preteens and also helping them grow in patience in their lives.*

## 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.

## JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** paper, pens (option: have leaders use dry erase boards and markers)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids paper and pens. (option: dry erase boards for leaders)
- Say one of the words below, in which the letters have been rearranged.
- Then spell it out with the letters still scrambled.
- Tell kids to write down the letters and then race to be the first to unscramble the letters with the word spelled correctly and call out the correct answer.
- After each word, let kids share whether it's something they like or dislike.
- Use words from the following list or others you think of.
  - ZIPZA (pizza)
  - SCROLESEA (casserole)
  - KOCOSIE (cookies)
  - CEAK (cake)
  - TOP TARSO (pot roast)
  - TATPOO (potato)
  - GHOTUUND (doughnut)
  - ORBSWINE (brownies)
  - SABEN (beans)
  - COBCROIL (broccoli)
- If time allows, let the kids create other mixed-up foods to try and stump the group.

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

## 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.



## BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, paper plates, markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Provide each kid with a paper plate and a marker.
- Ask kids to draw the face of Simeon on one side of a paper plate that shows his expression as he waited for the Messiah to come.
- On the other side of the plate, tell them to draw Simeon's expression when he saw Jesus for the first time.
- Challenge kids to hold their paper plates at arm's length straight in front of them as you read Luke 2:25-35 to them.
  - When they hear something in the story that is evidence that God was with Simeon as he waited for the Savior tell them to wave their plate but not lower their arms.
- Tell kids they can lower their arms when they hear you say, "THE END" as you finish reading the passage.
- Ask:
  - When your arms started to get tired and you wanted to put your plate down, what helped you hang in there?
  - In a frustrating situation, how can you tell when you're about to lose your patience?
  - What can you do to avoid losing your cool when it's not easy to be patient or when waiting feels like forever?
  - If Simeon could share his "recipe" for patience, what might the ingredients be?
- Steer the discussion of the question above away from actual food items. Turn kids' ideas toward "ingredients" such as trusting the promises God has made, focusing on what they know to be true about God's character, remembering ways He has helped them or others in the past, reading verses and stories in the Bible of those who, like Simeon, waited patiently trusting God's plan and timing.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



## VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Egg Strength Visual" Activity Page, egg, bottle caps, weights or books, table covering

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite one of the kids to read Psalm 46:1 aloud.
- Encourage kids to put the verse into their own words.
- Lead them in a discussion to discover how the verse applies to their lives.
- Ask:
  - In what way 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?
  - What are some reasons God might keep you waiting or place you in a situation that puts your patience to the test?
- Use the following Egg Strength Test to illustrate how God gives us extraordinary strength to do what He asks us to do.
- Follow the steps below to perform an Egg Strength Test. *(If preferred, you can watch a video demonstration similar to this activity rather than performing it.)* <https://bit.ly/2l8N0rB>
  - Cover the area on the floor or table where you will be working.
  - Refer to the "Egg Strength Visual" for a visual reference.
  - Place the egg in one of the upturned bottle caps so that the narrow end of the egg is faces downward.
  - Place the other bottle cap facing down on top of the egg.
  - Make sure the egg is sitting evenly in the bottle caps with the top cap level.
  - Place a piece of cardstock on top of the egg to protect the books or other weights that will be added in the next steps.
  - Ask kids to guess how many books (or how much weight) they think the egg can hold.
  - Gently set a book on top of the cardstock so that it is balanced evenly over the egg.
  - Continue slowly adding more books until the egg cracks and breaks.
- Invite kids to share times when they felt like the weight of being patient was too much for them.
- Wrap up by asking kids to think about how they would finish the sentences below.
- Let those who are willing share their answers.
  - "Knowing God is with me when I need to be patient helps me because..."
  - "My most challenging patience strength test this week will probably be..."
  - "One thing I learned about patience today is..."

## 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

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



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- What is a patient person like? Describe.
- Why is a patient person more fun to hang around with than someone who is impatient?
- What steps can you take to become a more patient kid?
- When you mess up by losing your patience, is it always your fault? Why or why not?
- There's no rewind button on life, but what can you do to make things right or even just better if you lose your patience?

## 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

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



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Sit in a circle.
- Prompt kids to pray responsive prayers by finishing the following prayer starters silently or out loud.
- Challenge kids to use the word PATIENT or PATIENCE at least once in their prayers.
  - God, today I learned that . . .
  - God, please help me remember . . .
  - God, please forgive me for . . .
  - God, please help me know that you're with me this week when I get impatient with...

## 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.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we have learned a lot about patience today. Now it's time to put what we've learned into practice. Give us the strength to wait the way Simeon did and to know You are always with us. We know that patience is fueled by faith, so help us trust You as we wait. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."