

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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: paper & markers (option: dry erase boards, dry erase markers)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask partners to sit back to back. (Kids can spread out a bit. Partners need to be sitting with their backs toward each other, close enough to hear each other, but they can keep distance between them if needed.)
- Give one partner a piece of paper and marker.
- Hand the other partner one of the cookie cutters, but don't let the first partner see it.
- Have the other kid (their partner) describe one of their favorite places to eat, or their favorite dessert/food (without saying exactly what it is)
- Instruct the kid with the paper to draw exactly what their partner is describing.
- When finished, let partners share drawings to see how closely they match.
- Switch roles for each round.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Will Wait

Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you waiting for right now?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can celebrate even when you're waiting.

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:

"Things are not always the way we imagine. Sometimes they are better. Sometimes they are worse. And, sometimes they are just different. **[Transition]** The people in today's story were waiting for something to happen but when it finally did, it wasn't the way they had pictured it."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Chocolate sandwich cookies, toothpicks, hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

Note: If you plan to have kids eat their cookies at the end of this activity, provide hand sanitizer ahead of time.

- Give each kid two cookies and a toothpick.
- Invite them to separate the outer layers of the cookie to reveal the white frosting in the center.
- Direct kids to use their toothpicks to etch into the frosting a simple image of something they have had to wait for in the past.
 - This can be simple, like waiting in traffic, for Christmas to come, school to be out for a holiday, etc. Or bigger things like waiting to get a new pet, for a sibling to be born, for a parent to find a new job, or for a terminally-ill loved one to get better.
- In the other cookie, etch something they are waiting for right now.
- Invite kids to share their cookie etchings when finished and tell the stories behind each one.
- Encourage them to share how they felt as they waited.
- Share answers as time allows:
 - What did you do to keep from getting impatient?
 - Did whatever you were waiting for turn out to be as you'd expected or hoped for? Why or why not?
 - Did you learn any lessons from the experience that helped you the next time you had to wait?

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If kids did not mention experiences and details about how COVID-19 has impacted their lives, invite them to share how things like a loved one being sick, sheltering in place, social distancing, wearing face coverings, and other changes are a test of their patience. What helped them the most as they went through those experiences that has helped them be a more patient person today? What aspects of COVID are still testing their patience?

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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:

- Why is it good to find something to celebrate while you're waiting and trying to be patient?
 - When you're feeling impatient, the LAST thing you're probably thinking about is what you can celebrate or be grateful for. How could we change that and make it the FIRST thing we think about?
 - Name three things you can celebrate every day no matter what.
- Note: If you did not do the Bible Story Extension activity (above), incorporate those questions into your discussion here.*

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VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, markers, "Hosanna Cake" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Ask kids to look up and read Psalm 33:20-22.
- Ask:
 - What does it look like to "wait in hope for the Lord"?
 - What are some reasons you can rejoice or celebrate even while you're waiting for God to do something?
 - Is there a difference between the way God wants us to react to the small, everyday "waits" versus the big, life-changing "waits?" Why or why not?
- Give each of the kids a "Hosanna Cake" Activity Page and set out the markers.
- Invite the kids to decorate their "Hosanna Cake" by putting the message about patience from Psalm 33:20-22 in their own words.
- Allow time for kids to share their "Hosanna Cakes" and the meaning behind what they put on the cake.
- Remind kids that the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is found in all four Gospels. On the back of their "Hosanna Cake," ask them to write the following references.
 - Matthew 21:1-11
 - Mark 11:1-11
 - Luke 19:28-44
 - John 12:12-19
- Encourage kids to fold their "Hosanna Cake" and put them in their Bibles or pockets and take time later this week to look up and read each account and compare how the different writers tell the story.

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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: "Hosanna Cakes" from "Verses to Take With You" activity

• **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Scatter the "Hosanna Cakes" (from Verses to Take With You) on the floor around the room.
- Invite kids to go stand by one of the cakes.
- Ask kids to read what's written on the "Hosanna Cake" and then share a silent or verbal prayer of thanks in celebration of Jesus.
- Signal kids to move to a new "Hosanna Cake" about every 15-20 seconds until they have visited each cake area.
- Close by praying for the kids to grow in their ability to trust God when they need to be patient and to celebrate what they know to be true of His love and plan for them while they are waiting.

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