



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CONNECT**

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



**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**I'm with You**

Simeon Waits for the Messiah  
Luke 2:25-35

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

What are you waiting for right now?

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

God is with you while you wait.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

**"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."**

Psalm 27:14, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

**BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what.

**3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- Describe a patient kid. Why is that kind of person more fun to be around than someone who is always impatient?
- What would you say is the secret sauce or the main thing to remember when it comes to waiting well?
- The next time you're waiting for something longer than you'd like, think of yourself as a "waiter" in a restaurant. What can you do to help, encourage, or serve others as you wait?
- Why can we have hope while we wait?



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### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles; *Optional: chairs*

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite kids to look up Psalm 46:1 using the Bible

Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.*

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- Invite kids who would like to read the verse aloud.
- Then say it together several times.
- Ask:
  - What promise do you find in this verse?
  - In what ways 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?
  - How can waiting teach us something or make us stronger?
  - How do we become stronger in our ability to wait well?
- Sit in a circle (if possible, in chairs).
- Ask one kid to stand in the middle of the circle and remain standing throughout the following game.
- Explain that two kids in the circle must always be standing along with the kid in the middle. (Decrease this to one kid if your group is small.)
  - Kids in the circle can sit down and stand up as often as they want but can't stand for more than 5 seconds at a time.
  - There is no particular order for when kids have to stand.
- Pause the game several times to give each kid a turn in the middle if they want it.
- After the game, lead kids in making some observations.
  - Staying focused was a crucial part of the game. How does Psalm 46:1 help you know what to focus on when you're waiting?
  - How can this game remind us that God is always with us?
  - When it's really hard to wait, who would you choose to have alongside you to encourage you to be patient?
  - What can you do to remember that God is with you as you wait?
- If time allows, practice saying Psalm 46:1 together by inviting kids to echo or repeat short portions of the verse from kid to kid until everyone has recited it.



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**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



**5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER**  
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to share what they learned about patience this month in one sentence.
- Prompt them with some of the following ideas, if needed.
  - Waiting can make you wise. (Week 1)
  - When you think you can't wait, think twice. (Week 2)
  - When you have to wait, remember what's true. (Week 3)
  - God is with you while you wait. (Week 4)
- Invite kids to say a short prayer to thank God for helping them learn this month and for the kids sitting on both sides of them.
- Encourage those who would like to pray aloud to do so and the others to pray silently.
- When everyone has had time to pray, close with a final prayer.

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