

ALLEY Rundown – April 27- 28, 2024

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 (NIRV)

PRE- SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hello and welcome to The Alley! I can't wait to learn with you today. It's my favorite time of the week!

Let's start with a question. When was the last time you waited for something that you wanted right now? Maybe it was your mom's famous cookies, counting down the days to see family, Christmas morning, or summer vacation—take a minute to share a story with the person sitting next to you.

Take a few moments for kids to share stories. As you have time, ask a couple of kids to share, then continue.

Thanks for sharing! And I get it, each of those examples would be difficult. Any time I am forced to wait, I have an internal clock that tick-tocks in my head. As the clock ticks and tocks, it feels like time slows down even more.

Then share a personal story of a time YOU needed to wait.

Throughout that wait, there were countless times I thought about it and got frustrated. Have you felt like that? Have you ever been told that you had to wait for something, and you responded by getting angry and calling it stupid in the first place? How are you supposed to react? How do you even find patience in the first place?

All month long, we've discussed and talked about moments when we've had to wait. Sometimes the wait is short—like when we wait for our popcorn in the microwave or when we wait for a video game to load. But there are *plenty* of times the wait is longer, aren't there? We wait for the bus in the rain. We wait for the school day to end. Our birthday never seems to come fast enough.

When your wait seemed endless, were there moments you wanted to give up? When things got difficult or you thought you figured something out only to find you had more to learn?

Maybe math is difficult and doesn't come as easily as you want. Ever feel like throwing in the math towel?

Maybe you had an injury while playing a sport. As you sit on the sidelines waiting for things to heal, all your teammates seem to be getting better and better while you sit there and watch. Might make you want to quit, doesn't it?

For those who have gone fishing, I'm sure you have felt like giving up before you caught a fish!

What are we supposed to do when we want to walk away instead of enduring the wait?

Great question. Let's see if we can find an answer in the Bible! Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who experienced God and wrote down what they learned about God so we can get to know God for ourselves. It's the best place to start if you need help trusting God and finding wisdom—and it turns out that finding patience takes a whole lot of both! Let's take a look.

VIDEO: *The So and So Show (14:59)*

I love this story because we see the patience of Simeon paying off. He didn't complain. He didn't quit.

He just waited and held fast to God's promise.

The Israelites waited for hundreds of years for Jesus' arrival. When the time came, Simeon was able to hold Jesus in his arms just as God promised. That's a pretty great reward for being patient!

The Bible does not say how long Simeon waited for the promise to be fulfilled, but we do know it didn't happen right away. Simeon appears to have waited patiently and with joy, trusting God's promise to come true.

He didn't know how his story would unfold, but I feel confident Simeon would say it was worth the wait. It's a great example of waiting on God's promises to come to pass! In the same way the Holy Spirit was with Simeon, God is with us, too. I realize there are plenty of times we want to give up, but we have to remember this story! God is with us while we wait.

God has promised that no matter how long we must wait, everything will be made right in the end for those who follow Jesus! So, we can wait with hope and rely on God. You can trust God no matter what! And when you trust God to help you wait, well, God's Spirit can give you all that you need while you wait . . . including patience.

And the beauty of waiting patiently? That shows the world what God is like. We can show others a good attitude instead of grumbling. We can show the world calmness instead of anger. Even if the very thing we are waiting to happen never does come true, we can still show others God.

Each of you are at a great age to practice patience. Not saying that all of you are impatient . . . but . . .

We realize many of you have upcoming events and milestones that are keeping you awake with anticipation. In The Alley we want to help you with the hard stuff in life—like showing patience. As we gear up to move into our Small Group time, we want you to think on this one question:

SLIDE: Key Question

What are you waiting for right now?

Maybe it is something significant. It could be something you've wanted for a long time. Whatever it might be, feel free to share it with your Small Groups in just a moment. But before we dismiss, let's pray and thank God for being with us throughout the seasons we have to wait.

SLIDE: Theme Background

LG Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star Helps People who are struggling financially. They help them with their basic necessities AND they help them with whatever it is they need to do, to be able to get in a better place and support their families. With summer around the corner, I know it's funny to talk about Christmas, but take a look at this video about one of Missions of Hope's programs called Stars of Hope. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this...

VIDEO: Stars of Hope

Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to give gifts at Christmas to kids in families who need help. So we can spread some Christmas spirit whatever the season with our offering to Morning Star Mission.

SLIDE: Theme