

ALLEY SG – 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 (NIV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, “Sandwich Wrap” Card (one per kid), brown, red, green and yellow markers

What You Do:

- Review the story by inviting kids who enjoy reading aloud to take turns reading parts of Luke 2:25-35 to the group.
- Give each kid one “Sandwich Wrap” card and set out the markers.
- Direct kids to color the lower section above the bottom bun BROWN as you ask the question below.
 - Ask: What do you remember from the story that may have been difficult to wait for? (*Israelites waiting for God's Rescuer, Simeon waiting for God's promise to see the Savior, Simeon might have doubted God's promise since he had been waiting so long*)
- Lead kids to color the section above the brown, RED and ask the question below.
 - Ask: What impressed you the most about Simeon? (*He kept praying, he believed God's promise, he was patient*)
- Next, direct kids to color the next layer GREEN as you ask the question.
 - Ask: How did the people in the story show trust in God? (*Mary and Joseph followed God's command to bring a sacrifice to the temple, Simeon continued to believe God's promise and pray*)
- Finish by coloring the final layer YELLOW as you ask the last question.
 - Ask: What were some joyful moments in the story that made the waiting worth it? (*Simeon got to meet and hold the Messiah, Mary and Joseph realized again that Jesus was special, God came through on the promise to send the Rescuer*)
- Close with a short discussion to remind kids that God understands how hard it can be for us to wait patiently.
 - How do we know that God is with us while we're waiting? (*God speaks to us through the Bible, God uses friends and family to encourage us to be patient, God hears our prayers, the Holy Spirit gives us power to trust God*)
 - What are you waiting for right now?
 - How does it help to remember that God is with you?
- Encourage kids to take their “Sandwich home as a reminder that God understands it's hard for us to wait and that God promises to be with us as we do.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: “Toss it on the Grill” Page, (4 targets per group), bean bag (2-4 per group), floor tape

What You Do:

- Set out each of the 4 “Toss it on the Grill” Activity Pages in whatever configuration works best for your space.
- Tape each “Toss it on the Grill” Activity Page to the floor.
- Tape a line on the floor for kids to stand behind.
- Explain that kids will take turns naming a cookout food then tossing the bean bag onto one of the grills.
 - They will then answer a question to earn the points labeled on the grill.
 - If they miss hitting a grill, they can try a second time.
- Keep track of points to determine who is the “grill master.”
 - What is something you are waiting for right now?
 - If you knew you might have to wait many, many years for something you really wanted, how would you feel?
 - What do you remember waiting for the longest?
 - What is the hardest thing you’ve ever had to wait for?
 - What’s something you waited for but ended up disappointed with after you got it?
 - If you knew you had to wait a long time for something, what would help you wait well?
 - What’s one thing that helps you the most when you must wait longer than you’d like?
 - If you could have something right now and not have to wait, what would it be?
 - What’s something you can do while waiting that doesn’t require a phone or screen?
 - Why do you think God wants us to learn from waiting?

3. Discussion Questions

- 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?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse activity

What You Need: Memory verse cards (3 per bin)

What You Do:

- Review this month's memory verse with the group, "*Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD.*" Psalm 27:14 (NIV)
- Have the kids divide into 2-3 groups.
- Give each group a set of memory verse cards.
- When you say, "Go" groups will put the verse cards in the correct order.
- Continue playing timing them to see if their time can get faster.

5. Pray

- "God, thank You that You don't leave us in the waiting. No matter how long we have to wait and no matter what we're waiting for, You have promised that everything will be made right in the end for those who follow Jesus. Please work through Your Holy Spirit in us to help us this week to wait with hope. May we trust and believe that **[Bottom Line] God is with you while you wait.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As parents pick up, encourage the kids to tell them our memory verse for this month.