

CITY LG – April 27-28, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I'm With You (Simeon Waits for the Messiah) • *Luke 2:25-35*

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)

Monthly Virtue: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

WORSHIP

All of Me
He Has Won

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Well, hello, my friends! I'm so happy to be here with you all today. If you're glad you're here, give me a thumbs-up! (*Demonstrate.*) This month, we've been talking about patience.

SLIDE: Virtue

Patience is **waiting until later for what you want now.**

SLIDE: Theme

Raise your hand if you think it's really easy to wait. (*Pause for response.*) I see. Not a lot of hands. I agree. I think it's tough to wait for something that you really want, or something that you hope will happen. But in those times when we have to wait, God's Spirit can help us have patience.

I'm going to give you some time to discuss this question as a group....

What is something that you really wanted and had to wait for, and how did you feel while you were waiting? (*walk around and listen to kids' answer in their groups. Bring them back together in a few minutes when most groups are done.*) *If time, have a couple of kids share their answers with the group.*

Today's story comes from the book of Luke, in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Luke is one of the four Gospels that tell the story of Jesus' life.

Now, before we get into this story, we need to go all the way back to the beginning to understand everything that happened before. You see, in the very beginning, God created an amazing and wonderful world. But before long, people turned away from God. They didn't want to do what God told them to do. They chose their own way instead, and the world was broken. Still, God loved people. God had a plan to make things right.

God chose one man, Abraham, and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham's family became known as the Israelites. Over and over, they turned away from God. Then they were attacked and even taken captive. But through it all, God never turned away from the Israelite people. God sent prophets who shared messages from God. Through these prophets, God promised to send a Savior . . . a Rescuer . . . when the time was right. Let's check out the Story Lab to see what happens...

VIDEO: Bible Story (13:07)

SLIDE: Theme Background

I don't know about you, but I want to have the kind of patience Simeon had. Simeon knew that God had promised to send a Savior, but he had to wait a long time—probably years and years—for God's promise to come true. God's people, the Israelites, had already been waiting for hundreds of years for God's words to be fulfilled.

Through all that time, though, God had a plan. And when the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior. After all those years of waiting, Simeon was able to hold Jesus in his arms!

There might be things that you're waiting for right now. Or maybe you can think about a time when you had to wait for something in the past. But here's what I want you to remember: you never have to wait alone. Check out our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God is with you while you wait.

(Hold up Bible.) As we look back at God's Big Story, we see how God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. God's promise came true when Jesus was born! Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and then came back to life. Today, we can know that God is with us, through anything we might face in life. And we can know that everything will be made right in the end for those who follow Jesus.

Remember, patience is something that God's Holy Spirit can create in us. With the help of God's Spirit, we can be patient while we have to wait. That's something that other people will be able to see in us, and they'll know that it comes from our faith in Jesus.

Let's pray now and thank God that He is with us when we have to wait too. Let's pray.

Dear God, thank You so much for the story of Simeon. Simeon trusted Your promise to send a Savior . . . and he waited patiently because, God, You were with him. We know that You can help us to be patient, just like You helped Simeon. You are with us always, and we can trust You no matter what. We are so thankful for that! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme

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, it seems funny to think of 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

See, Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to have gifts at Christmas for kids in families who need help. We can be a part of spreading Christmas joy no matter what season it is.