

CITY SG – 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 (NIV)

1. Waiting on a Hero

Bible Story Review

What You Need: playdough (5-10 per group), little plates (5-10 per group)

What You Do:

- Ask: "If you were going to a cookout and there could only be one food, what would it be?"
- Give each kid a lump of playdough.
- Instruct each kid to make their food using playdough.
- As the kids are working, ask the review questions below:

Review Questions:

1. What were God's people, the Israelites, waiting for hundreds of years for? (*God's Rescuer*)
 2. Who was today's story about? (*Simeon*)
 3. What did God's Spirit tell Simeon? (*that he would meet the promised Savior before he died*)
 4. Did Simeon receive his promise right away? (*no*)
 5. Do we know how long Simeon had to wait? (*We don't know the exact amount of time, but we do know it did not happen right away.*)
 6. How did Simeon respond during his waiting? (*joyfully, patiently trusting God's promise*)
 7. What did God's Spirit prompt Simeon to do one day? (*Go to the temple courtyard.*)
 8. What did Simeon find at the temple? (*Baby Jesus, the Messiah*)
 9. Why was Baby Jesus at the temple? (*Mary and Joseph brought Him to dedicate Him to God.*)
 10. What can we learn from Simeon's waiting? (*Answers may vary. God is with you while you wait. You can continue to serve God and find joy even while you're waiting. You can trust God's promises.*)
- Invite kids to share their cookout creation with the group!

2. While I'm Waiting

Application Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- One by one, invite the kids in the group to share anything they are waiting for or times they have felt impatient before.
- After each kid shares, instruct the group to say: **"God is with you while you wait."**
- Say, "Waiting well is hard. But, remember that you don't have to do it on your own! When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us. Patience is a gift from God."

3. Memory Verse Roll

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: a soft ball (one per group)

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NirV)
- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

4. 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 bottom line for today, that **God is with you while you wait.**