



IT'S WORTH THE WAIT

WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Wait for It

Simeon Waits for the Messiah
Luke 2:25-35

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to have patience?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you have to wait,
remember God is with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Wait for the Lord.
Be strong and don't lose
hope. Wait for the Lord.
Psalm 27:14, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Patience—Waiting until later
for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Friend Like You" from *This Love*, "Working On Me" from *This Love*, and "We Believe" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 4*)
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray for patience for yourself as you spend time with your kids talking about patience. Pray that this would be an amazing month building relationships with your preteens and also helping them grow in patience in their lives.

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WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids paper and pens.
- Say one of the words below, in which the letters have been rearranged.
- Then spell it out with the letters still scrambled.
- Tell kids to write down the letters and then race to be the first to unscramble the letters with the word spelled correctly and call out the correct answer.
- After each word, let kids share whether it's something they like or dislike.
- Use words from the following list or others you think of.
 - ZIPZA (pizza)
 - SCROLESEA (casserole)
 - KOCOSIE (cookies)
 - CEAK (cake)
 - TOP TARSO (pot roast)
 - TATPOO (potato)
 - GHOTUUND (doughnut)
 - ORBSWINE (brownies)
 - SABEN (beans)
 - COBCROIL (broccoli)
- If time allows, let the kids create other mixed-up foods to try and stump the group.

1. JUST FOR FUN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Stopwatch or phone timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Assign (or let kids come up with their own) baby sounds to each kid.
 - For example, coo, cry, burp, mama, dada, or goo-goo.
- Tell kids to make their sound at a precise moment, such as "in 10 seconds."
- Set a stopwatch (but don't let kids see its progress) to see who speaks at "just the right time."
- Repeat with varying times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Such great baby sounds! AND really great timing, too! **[Transition]** If you had been around when today's story took place, you might have heard some of those sounds. Let's go find out what a baby has to do with our lesson today."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cookie Chart" Activity Page, pens, mini chocolate chips or markers, (optional) hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a pen and a "Cookie Chart" Activity Page.
 - Distribute prepared bags of chocolate chips or a brown marker if a non-food option is desired.
- Note: If you opt to use chocolate chips and plan to let kids eat them at the end of the activity, direct kids to use hand sanitizer before you begin the activity.*
- Instruct kids to add (or draw) chocolate chips on each cookie using the chart at the bottom of the activity page to indicate how easy or hard it would be for them to wait in each situation described on the cookies.
 - Use the blank cookies for kids to add personal examples of situations when it is hard for them to be patient.
 - Allow kids to eat their chocolate chips if desired as they share their responses to the situations described on their cookies.
 - Ask them to give some reasons why it's harder to be patient with certain people or situations than with others.
 - How does it help you to be aware of the things that trigger your impatience?
 - What helps you most when you begin to lose patience?

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, paper plates, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Provide each kid with a paper plate and a marker.
- Ask kids to draw the face of Simeon on one side of a paper plate that shows his expression as he waited for the Messiah to come.
- On the other side of the plate, tell them to draw Simeon's expression when he saw Jesus for the first time.
- Challenge kids to hold their paper plates at arm's length straight in front of them as you read Luke 2:25-35 to them.
 - When they hear something in the story that is evidence that God was with Simeon as he waited for the Savior tell them to wave their plate but not lower their arms.
- Tell kids they can lower their arms when they hear you say, "THE END" as you finish reading the passage.
- Ask:
 - When your arms started to get tired and you wanted to put your plate down, what helped you hang in there?
 - In a frustrating situation, how can you tell when you're about to lose your patience?
 - What can you do to avoid losing your cool when it's not easy to be patient or when waiting feels like forever?
 - If Simeon could share his "recipe" for patience, what might the ingredients be?
- Steer the discussion of the question above away from actual food items. Turn kids' ideas toward "ingredients" such as trusting the promises God has made, focusing on what they know to be true about God's character, remembering ways He has helped them or others in the past, reading verses and stories in the Bible of those who, like Simeon, waited patiently trusting God's plan and timing.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What is a patient person like? Describe.
- Why is a patient person more fun to hang around with than someone who is impatient?
- What steps can you take to become a more patient kid?
- When you mess up by losing your patience, is it always your fault? Why or why not?
- There's no rewind button on life, but what can you do to make things right or even just better if you lose your patience?

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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



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4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, "Egg Strength Visual" Activity Page, egg, bottle caps, weights or books, table covering

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite one of the kids to read Psalm 46:1 aloud.
- Encourage kids to put the verse into their own words.
- Lead them in a discussion to discover how the verse applies to their lives.
- Ask:
 - In what way 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?
 - What are some reasons God might keep you waiting or place you in a situation that puts your patience to the test?
- Use the following Egg Strength Test to illustrate how God gives us extraordinary strength to do what He asks us to do.
- Follow the steps below to perform an Egg Strength Test. *(If preferred, you can watch a video demonstration similar to this activity rather than performing it.)* <https://bit.ly/2l8N0rB>
 - Cover the area on the floor or table where you will be working.
 - Refer to the "Egg Strength Visual" for a visual reference.
 - Place the egg in one of the upturned bottle caps so that the narrow end of the egg is faces downward.
 - Place the other bottle cap facing down on top of the egg.
 - Make sure the egg is sitting evenly in the bottle caps with the top cap level.
 - Place a piece of cardstock on top of the egg to protect the books or other weights that will be added in the next steps.
 - Ask kids to guess how many books (or how much weight) they think the egg can hold.
 - Gently set a book on top of the cardstock so that it is balanced evenly over the egg.
 - Continue slowly adding more books until the egg cracks and breaks.
- Invite kids to share times when they felt like the weight of being patient was too much for them.
- Wrap up by asking kids to think about how they would finish the sentences below.
- Let those who are willing share their answers.
 - "Knowing God is with me when I need to be patient helps me because..."
 - "My most challenging patience strength test this week will probably be..."
 - "One thing I learned about patience today is..."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Sit in a circle.
- Prompt kids to pray responsive prayers by finishing the following prayer starters silently or out loud.
- Challenge kids to use the word PATIENT or PATIENCE at least once in their prayers.
 - God, today I learned that . . .
 - God, please help me remember . . .
 - God, please forgive me for . . .
 - God, please help me know that you're with me this week when I get impatient with...

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we have learned a lot about patience today. Now it's time to put what we've learned into practice. Give us the strength to wait the way Simeon did and to know You are always with us. We know that patience is fueled by faith, so help us trust You as we wait. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Paper
- Pens

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Stopwatch or phone timer

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Cookie Chart" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Pens
- 25 mini chocolate chips in a snack bag; one bag for each kid
- Markers (if not using chocolate chips)
- (Optional) Hand sanitizer if using chocolate chips

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Markers
- Dinner-size paper plate; one for each kid

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Egg Strength Visual" Activity Page; one for each group
- Raw or hardboiled egg
 - To reduce waste, ask your local grocer for a donation of eggs that are past their expiration date
- Soda or water bottle caps; two for each small group
 - Using sturdy, substantial caps will work better, as opposed to the ones on the bottles of store-brand bottle water
- Table covering
- Piece of cardstock or cardboard
- Books, Bibles, or weights; 10-15 for each group

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.