

FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

APR 28

COOKOUT: It's Worth The Wait

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)

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

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Just for Fun

What You Need: Offering container, coins, stopwatch or timer

What You Do:

- Show kids where the offering container is located and invite them to place their offerings there.
- Give each kid a coin.
- Explain and demonstrate the following steps to prepare kids for a game of "Minute to Catch It."
 - Bend one arm at the elbow so that the forearm is horizontal to the floor and the hand is touching the shoulder.
 - With palm facing up, place the coin on top of the elbow so it is facing the ceiling.
 - Quickly snap the arm downward and try to catch the coin before it hits the ground.
- Give kids time to practice then set a timer for one minute and challenge them to see how many times they can catch the coin before time is up.
- For a greater challenge, give kids another coin and tell them to stack it on top of the first and play again. As they succeed, keep giving them more coins to see how many they can catch.
- As time allows or for additional options, play other coin challenges.
 - Coin Spin: How long can kids spin coins on a flat surface such as an uncarpeted floor or table.
 - Coin Stack: How many coins can kids stack on their foreheads while standing with heads tilted back?
 - Coin Tower: How many coins can kids stack in one minute using only one hand?

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Prepared "Toss it on the Grill"

Activity Pages, bean bag or rolled up sock, floor tape

What You Do:

- Set out each prepared "Toss it on the Grill" Activity Page 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 or rolled sock onto one of the grills.
 - *NOTE: Be sure to accept a variety of food examples that represent the cultural variety represented by your group or local area.*
 - 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?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, "Sandwich Wrap" Activity Page, prepared pieces of yarn, tape; *Optional:*

markers and laminate

What You Do:

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- 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” Activity Page cutout and a piece of yarn in each color. *(Set out markers if you’ve chosen to use them instead of yarn.)*
 - Set out the rolls of tape for kids to share.
 - Direct kids to tape one end of the BROWN piece of yarn to the back of the card, wrap it around the sandwich several times (filling the lower section above the bottom bun), then secure the other end of the yarn to the back of the card with another piece of tape. *(If using markers, tell kids to color that section with a brown marker. Continue using corresponding colors that follow.)*
 - 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 tape the end of the RED piece of yarn to the back of the sandwich, wrap it around the card several times (filling the section above the brown), and secure with tape as before.
 - Ask: What impressed you the most about Simeon? *(He kept praying, he believed God’s promise, he was patient)*
 - Next, direct kids to wrap the GREEN piece of yarn around the card to create the next layer then secure it with tape.
 - 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 wrapping and taping the YELLOW piece of yarn around the card for the final layer.
 - 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)*
 - When the “Sandwich Wrap” is completed, the yarn layers should resemble the layers of meat, tomato, lettuce, and cheese on a sandwich.
 - 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 Wrap” 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.
- ### 3. Discussion Questions
- What You Need:** No supplies needed
What You Do:
- Ask:**
- 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. Make it Personal with Prayer
- What You Need:** No supplies needed
What You Do:
- Invite kids to share what they learned about patience this month in one sentence.
 - Prompt them with some of the following ideas, if needed.
 - Waiting can make you wise. (Week 1)
 - When you think you can’t wait, think twice. (Week 2)
 - When you have to wait, remember what’s true. (Week 3)
 - God is with you while you wait. (Week 4)
 - Invite kids to say a short prayer to thank God for helping them learn this month and for the kids sitting on both sides of them.
 - Encourage those who would like to pray aloud to do so and the others to pray silently.

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- When everyone has had time to pray, close with a final prayer.