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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 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 Life App: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Early Arriver

What You Need: Offering container; *Optional:* Smartphone

NOTE: Before group time, familiarize yourself with the "Peanut Butter and Jelly" rhyme and motions. (See below for links.)

What You Do:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Lead kids in the "Peanut Butter and Jelly" rhyme and motions.
- If time allows, add variety (and fun!) by leading kids to say the rhyme in voices they might hear at a cookout: a baby voice, a grandparent voice, or even a dog voice!
- Head to one of the links below and listen to the "Peanut Butter and Jelly" rhyme so that everyone can get familiar with it if need be.
 - o Option 1: <https://bit.ly/3RyLTBL>



- o Option 2: <https://bit.ly/481T9gg>



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Tick Tock Wait Around the Clock

What You Need: "Around the Clock" Activity Page, crayons or markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a circle from the "Around the Clock" Activity Page.
 - o Make sure all 12 circles are handed out. It's fine if kids have more than one!
- Set out the crayons or markers.
- As kids color, ask questions to help them review the story. Touch on the following key points:
 - o One day, as Simeon prayed, God's Spirit spoke to him and said, "You will not die before you see the Lord's Messiah." (*Explain the Messiah is God's Rescuer the Israelites waited and hoped for, for hundreds and hundreds of years.*)
 - o Simeon waited . . . and waited . . . and WAITED.
 - o Years later, God's Spirit told Simeon to go to the temple courtyard.
 - o Simeon quickly obeyed.
 - o While he was there, Simeon saw Jesus!
 - o At this time, baby Jesus was only eight days old, and Mary and Joseph had brought Him to the Temple so they could dedicate Him to God.
- When kids finish coloring, arrange the images in order in a circle to create a "clock."
- Use the images to review the story, reading the text in each speech bubble to the group.

What You Say:

"Simeon waited for God's promise to come true. (*Point to the images around the "clock" as you say:*) Through all this time, Simeon waited patiently, and with joy, trusting God's promise. And when the time was right, JESUS, God's one and only Son, sent to be our Savior, arrived. (*Point to the image of Simeon*

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holding baby Jesus.) And Simeon held baby Jesus in his arms, just as God’s Spirit had promised! Wow! Simeon praised God and said, ‘*Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen your salvation*’ (Luke 2:29-30 NIV). Simeon didn’t know how the rest of God’s story would unfold. But he did know that every minute had been worth the wait!

2. PB&J Paradigm

What You Need: Bibles, decks of “PB&J Cards” Activity Pages, and paper plates

What You Do:

- Divide your group into groups of four. (It’s okay if there are groups of three.)
- Give each group a Bible.
- Help kids look up and “read” the verse using the Bible.
- Show the kids a set of the “PB&J Cards” Activity Pages to review the Memory Verse.
- Invite the kids to repeat the phrase on each card after you.
- Lead kids in a variation of Slamwich®.
- Give each group a deck of cards prepared from the “PB&J Cards” Activity Pages.
 - Each group will get 40 cards (10 sets).
- Guide one kid in each group to deal all the cards.
 - Some kids may have more cards than others (if you have groups of three), and that’s okay.
- Direct kids to stack their cards facedown. (No peeking!)
- Set a paper plate in the center of each group’s playing area.
- Instruct the kid to the left of the dealer to go first.
- Moving around the circle to the left, direct the kids to take turns flipping over their top card and putting it on the paper plate.
- Instruct everyone in the group to read the cards aloud together.

- If the kids spot a PB&J sandwich—bread, peanut butter, jelly, bread (which is also Psalm 27:14)—direct them to slap the center pile and shout “PB&J!”
 - Kids can also be looking for the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 to show a completed set.
- Continue play as time allows.
- NOTE: When a kid runs out of cards, shuffle all the cards and begin the game again.

What You Say:

(Use a Bible to read Psalm 27:14 to the group.)

“This month, we heard about some people who lost hope and didn’t wait for the Lord. Esau gave up his future as leader of his family for a bowl of stew. And the Israelites stopped waiting for Moses, lost hope, and worshiped a statue of a golden calf!

“But Simeon showed us how we can be strong, not lose hope, and wait for the Lord. One day, God promised Simeon that he would see the Savior before he died. Did God’s promise come true quickly? *(No!)* No, Simeon waited a long time to see Jesus, but he never lost hope! Simeon trusted God.

“We can trust God and wait too. When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit. *(Use a Bible to read Psalm 27:14 to the group one more time. Invite the kids to say it with you.)* So remember, **[Bottom Line] God is with you while you wait.**”

3. Pray With Your Group