

## Grade 3-4: Small Group Leader Guide

# April 28<sup>th</sup> 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

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

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### Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."
5. **Activity**

## Opening Activity

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

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Divide kids into teams of 3-4.
- Say: "I want you to imagine you're waiting in the world's longest line for food at your neighborhood cookout."
- Instruct the kids to come up with a game to play while they are waiting.
  - Provide some examples, but encourage creativity: Simon Says, I Spy, the alphabet game, etc.
- Encourage teams to work together to agree on a game to play or make up.
- Give each team time to play a few rounds of their chosen game.

### What You Say:

"Waiting isn't so bad when you can turn your focus from waiting to having fun, right? Can each team share what game you chose? *(Invite responses.)* **[Transition] Today in Large Group we're going to hear about something else you can focus on while you're waiting.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



## Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

### Waiting on a Hero

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bandanas (or scarves), ribbons, scissors, and timer (stopwatch or smartphone)

#### What You Do:

- Size a piece of ribbon around each kid's waist, cut it, and instruct them to tie it securely around their waist.
- Give each kid a bandana.
- Instruct each kid to tuck a corner of their bandana into their ribbon waistband near their side so the majority of the bandana is hanging out near their hip.
  - *Check that all kids' bandanas are hanging on their side versus the front or back area.*
- Assign one kid to be the "tagger" and one kid to be the "hero."
- Give the "hero" extra bandanas.
- Set the timer for one minute.
- When you say "Go," start the timer, and direct the kids to quickly walk around the area attempting to avoid the "tagger."
- Instruct the "tagger" to attempt to remove kids' bandanas during the one minute.
- Direct the hero to look for kids whose bandana has been removed, and give those kids another one.
- When the time ends, say "freeze."
- Ask the kids without flags at the end of the round a review question from the questions below.
- If all kids have their flags, ask the tagger a review question from the questions below.
- Play several rounds.
- Reassign roles each round so as many kids as possible have had a turn to be a tagger or hero.
- Continue playing until all questions have been answered and as time and interest allow.

#### Review Questions:

1. What were God's people, the Israelites, waiting for hundreds of years for? (*God's Rescuer*)
2. Who was our story today 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.*)

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

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.*)

**What You Say:**

"One of my favorite things about a family cookout are the games we play, like capture the flag. During our game, it was easy to lose a bandana to the tagger. In our lives, it can be easy for us to lose hope while we're waiting. Waiting can be hard, especially when we don't know how long we'll be waiting. But, in our story today, Simeon showed us what it looks like to not lose hope while we wait.

"Through his many years of waiting, Simeon was patient, with joy—trusting in God's promise. And when the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior. And Simeon was able to hold Jesus in his arms, just as God's Spirit had promised. Our story not only reminds us that **[Bottom Line] God is with you while you wait**, but also shows us that we can be wise with the time we have while waiting. Simeon continued to serve God and grow in faith and knowledge."

**[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you were waiting on something, and chose to have joy and patience while waiting.)**



## Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

### Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

**Today's Bottom Line:** god is with you while you wait.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NirV)

### Pray and Dismiss

#### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

**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: **[Bottom Line] “God is with you while you wait.”**
- Close your group time in prayer.

#### What You Say:

“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.”



## Check Out & Parent Pick-up

*Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up..*

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line: god is with you while you wait**

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.