

## Grade K-2: 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 Life App:** Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

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

---



### 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**

## Early Arriver

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

**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.
  - Option 1: <https://bit.ly/3RyLTBL>



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





## Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

### Tick Tock Wait Around the Clock

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**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.
  - 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:
  - 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.*)
  - Simeon waited . . . and waited . . . and WAITED.
  - Years later, God’s Spirit told Simeon to go to the temple courtyard.
  - Simeon quickly obeyed.
  - While he was there, Simeon saw Jesus!
  - 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 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!

“God promises us that no matter how long WE have to wait, in the end God will make everything right for those who follow Jesus. Even more, **[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.



## Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

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

**Today's Bottom Line:** God is with you while we 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:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

#### What You Say:

“When Simeon saw Baby Jesus at the temple, he praised God and said, ‘*My eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all nations. It is a light to be given to the Gentiles. It will be the glory of your people Israel*’ (Luke 2:30-32 NirV). Simeon declared that Jesus is God’s Messiah! He said Jesus had come to rescue not only Jewish people but everyone, everywhere, for all time! In the end, Jesus would give up His life. But even then, God’s plan wasn’t finished, because God brought Jesus back to life so that when you believe in Jesus and follow Him, you’ll live with God forever! Wow!

“It’s okay if you don’t understand all of this yet. But if you have any questions or want to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, you can talk to your parents, me, or any of the other leaders.

*NOTE: Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church’s policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families with this discussion or decisions as well. It might be a good idea to simply “plant the seeds.”*

“But here’s something you can hold on to—Jesus wants to be your closest friend right now, and He wants to be with you forever! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to live, die, and come back to life so that we can be with You FOREVER. You want to be with \_\_\_\_\_ [name of kid] forever. You want to be with \_\_\_\_\_ [name of kid] forever. *(Repeat with each kid’s name.)* Help us grow in patience while we wait. Help us be strong and not lose hope. 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.