

SOCIAL 1/3

Wait, Wait, Dance

What You Need

- ☐ Phone or Kitchen Timer



Inclusive Pro Tips



Offer a buddy to help child with the transitions from waiting to dancing.

For a version with less movement, sit children in a circle on the floor and when the timer goes off, encourage children to wave their arms, clap their hands, or rock from side to side.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather children around you and show them the timer you will be using and explain what it does.

During the Activity

1. Set the timer for a few seconds and slowly work up to more time.
2. Ensure that the sound for the timer is turned on.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come over here and stand with me. I want to show this cool timer. **(SHOW THE KITCHEN TIMER OR PHONE APP.)** A timer counts down time and then it makes a sound, you can use it for lots of different things but today we are going to use it to play a game."

During the Activity

"Would you like to hear what the timer sounds like before we start our game? **(SET THE TIMER FOR A SECOND.)** Okay, when the timer stops this is what it sounds like. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! That's a loud sound. Okay I think we are ready to play! I'm going to set the timer for longer this time, and while it counts down, we have to wait. We can't do anything, we have to be still and wait. Then when we hear the timer go off and make that loud sound, we can dance and move our bodies all around. **(SET THE TIMER.)** Wait... **(PAUSE.)** Hear that sound? It means our waiting time is over. Everybody move and dance around! **(PAUSE.)** Now freeze and we'll set the timer again. **(CONTINUE INCREASING THE TIME YOU SET.)** Great job friends!"

After the Activity

"Waiting is really hard sometimes isn't it. But you did it! After we waited we had so much fun dancing and moving together! Today in our Bible Story, we are going to learn about a man named Abraham and his wife and how they waited and waited for God's plan because they knew that God always keeps His promises! Let's go hear what God had planned for Abraham and Sarah!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by setting the timer to see how far they can walk before the timer sounds. Continue until you reach your designated area. **(BE SURE TO TURN YOUR TIMER OFF BEFORE ENTERING WORSHIP AND STORY.)**

SOCIAL 2/3

Counting Stars



What You Need

- ☐ Black or Dark Blue Butcher Paper
- ☐ Sheets of Star Stickers
- ☐ Masking Tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Painter's Tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, tape the black butcher paper to a wall or lay it on the floor so they can place stars while sitting or standing.

If stickers are difficult to manipulate, let them point to where they want a star, and a helper can place it for them.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Tape a large sheet of black/dark blue butcher paper underneath a table.
2. Place star stickers nearby so children can easily access them.

During the Activity

1. Invite children to sit or lay under the table and pretend they are looking up at the night sky.
2. Give each child a sheet of star stickers and encourage them to place them on the paper, just like the stars in the sky.
3. Admire their star-filled sky.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come over here! We're going to look up at the night sky, just like Abraham did when God made him a big promise. But instead of going outside, we're going to crawl under this table and make our own starry sky!"

During the Activity

"You each get a sheet of star stickers to add to the sky! **(HAND EACH CHILD A SHEET OF STICKERS.)** Let's add lots of stars! Can you count them as you place them? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Wow! Add all your star stickers to the sky! **(PAUSE.)** Look at all these stars! We tried to count them as we added them in the sky but there are so many! I don't know if we can count them all! **(COUNT THE STARS IF TIME ALLOWS.)** Thank you for helping make our sky so beautiful!"

After the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah, that they would have a big family! Bigger than all the stars in the sky! Let's go hear more about it!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by twinkling your hands like stars.

GROUPS 2/4

Pick the Picture



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Pick the Picture" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Pick the Picture" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story as you hold up silly pictures until you get to the correct picture.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Everyone, come sit with me! I am going to hold up some pictures, and I need you to help me pick the right one that goes with our Bible Story."

During the Activity

"Ready? Here we go! In our Bible Story, God told Abraham and Sarah that their family would have as many people as there are... **(HOLD UP PICTURE OF THE ELEPHANT)** elephants in the sky? **(PAUSE.)** No, that's not right. **(HOLD UP PICTURE OF COOKIES.)** Cookies in the sky? **(PAUSE.)** No, that's not right either. **(HOLD UP PICTURE OF STARS.)** Stars in the sky? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! God told Abraham and Sarah that their family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky! Great job friends!

"I've got more pictures; will you help me pick the right picture Bible Story picture again? **(PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.)** Great! Here we go. Abraham and Sarah waited and waited and waited for a **(HOLD UP PICTURE OF THE SOCCER BALL)** Soccer ball? **(PAUSE.)** No, that's not right. **(HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF THE FLOWER.)** Flowers? No, that's not right either. Abraham and Sarah waited and waited and waited for a **(HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF BABY ISSAC)** baby? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! Abraham and Sarah waited and waited and waited and they finally had a baby boy and they named him Issac! God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and their family grew... and grew... and grew! There were more people than stars in the sky! Friends, thank you for helping me find the correct Bible Story pictures."

After the Activity

"Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God's plan, but God always keeps His promises! God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you! Who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me! Yay! God has plans for you, and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me!"

GROUPS 3/4

Waiting for a Friend

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Pop-up Tunnel


Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer children to move around the tunnel instead of through the tunnel. If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section accordingly.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Set up the tunnel in an open area of the room.
2. Line children up on one end of the tunnel and stand on the other end.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to crawl through the tunnel but they have to wait until you call their name.
2. Celebrate each friend as they crawl through the tunnel.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Look friends! We're going to play with the tunnel today. Come line up on this side of the tunnel. (PAUSE.) I'll go stand on that side (WALK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TUNNEL) and call you to me. But you have to wait for me to call your name."

During the Activity

"Remember, you have to wait to go through the tunnel until I call your name. (PAUSE.) [CHILD'S NAME], crawl through the tunnel to me. (PAUSE.) Yay! You made it through the tunnel. Come wait for the rest of our friends with me. [CHILD'S NAME] your turn! Crawl through the tunnel to me! (PAUSE.) Hooray! You made it! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Whoa, we did a lot of waiting today. We had to wait for our turn to go through the tunnel and then we waited for all our friends to have a turn. We waited, and waited, and waited."

After the Activity

"In our Bible Story today we learned about a young man named Abraham and his wife, Sarah. One night, God told Abraham, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can. That's how many children will be born into your family." (GENESIS 15:5 NIRV) Wow, that's a big family! Abraham and Sarah were excited about God's plan, and they knew that God always keeps His promises. Abraham and Sarah were ready to have a baby and start their family. They waited...and waited...and waited. Many, many years went by, and Abraham and Sarah became very old. They knew God had a plan for their family, and one day they had the baby they had waited for! Abraham and Sarah had a little boy, and they named him Isaac. God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and their family grew... and grew... and grew! There were more people than stars in the sky! Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God's plan, but God always keeps His promises! God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"