



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.

THE BIBLE

Simeon and Anna Welcome Jesus:
Luke 2:22-40; (Galatians 4:4-7)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship
- ACTIVITY** | Use Your Head
- ACTIVITY** | Wheel of Waiting
- ACTIVITY** | Await in a Manger
- POLL** | To Wait or Not to Wait
- SCRIPTURE** | Luke 2:22-40
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.
- VIDEO** | Wait For It, Episode 4
- STORY** | Jesus For the Win
- ACTIVITY** | Anna and Simeon Scene It?
- SCRIPTURE** | Galatians 4:4-7
- ACTIVITY** | Wait for My Pair
- REFLECTION** | Royals
- MEMORY VERSE** | Delayed Gratification
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What was the name of the man in Jerusalem waiting for Jesus?
 - What was the name of the woman in Jerusalem waiting for Jesus?
 - Who promised Jesus would be coming?
 - Read Galatians 4:7. What does it mean when it says we are "God's own child?"
 - Simeon listened to God and God guided him to the temple on the right day at the right time to meet Jesus. How can you listen for God?
 - Anna prayed and fasted while waiting for God. How can you spend time growing closer to God while waiting?
 - Who is someone in your life you can tell about God who doesn't know about God yet?
- ACTIVITY** | Family Bingo!
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 7:7 (NIV)



BY STEPHEN BAY

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

In children’s ministry, you’ve got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Use Your Head

Turn this into a “Twenty Questions” game with your preteens and segue into a discussion. Ask for one kid to come up and whisper a real, Biblical, or fictional character to you. Then have all the kids take turns asking only yes or no questions and see if they can guess the character in twenty questions or less.

- Then say: **How many clues did it take to guess who the person is?** The clues helped you figure out the identity of your character. In the Bible, there are many clues to help you see who The Savior is – and today, we’re going to learn more about this!

ACTIVITY | Await in a Manger

After rolling the dice, have each kid explain who the person is in the Nativity story: is it Joseph, Mary, one of the Magi, an angel, a shepherd, or Baby Jesus? Ask them to explain the significance of that person to the story of Christmas before they place the character on the background image of the stable.

POLL | To Wait or Not to Wait

Give kids a chance to share about the presents they really wanted and got for Christmas. Be careful not to alienate any kids who might not have gotten presents, depending on how their family celebrates Christmas. Gauge how each of your kids spent the holidays and pivot your questions to be more hypothetical if you think any of the kids might feel left out.

- How many of you got Christmas presents?
- Who had presents under the tree before Christmas morning?
- Did anyone get to open presents early? How early? A few days? A week?
- Who got something that you really wanted and waited a long time for?

Sometimes, it's really hard to wait for good gifts, isn't it? But God gave us the greatest gift of all—and it was totally worth waiting for! **Jesus is the one we've been waiting for!**

REFLECTION | Royals

Ask the kids to talk a little bit about each of these words: heir, worthy, royal. Help them process what it means that they themselves are worthy heirs in a royal family!

- What do these words mean?
- What does it mean that these words apply to you because of Jesus?



BY CHRISTIN RICKMAN

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children’s ministry, you’ve got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

POLL | To Wait or Not to Wait

Write the possible responses on poster boards, and as you ask each question, have two adult volunteers hold up the possible answers (e.g., For the first question, the poster boards can say, “playground” and “roller coaster”). Have kids then run behind the volunteer holding the sign they most identify with. Have them come back as a large group before asking the next poll question.

ACTIVITY | Anna and Simeon Scene It?

While playing this [video](#), pause periodically to ask kids about what is happening in that frozen scene. You can ask them to identify details in that scene, or about what the narrator was just talking about. You can prepare in advance by watching the video and jotting down questions and prompts and organizing them by timestamp.

ACTIVITY | Wait for My Pair

Instead of taping these on their backs, tape them up around the room. Partner kids up with a peer buddy and have them find matching pairs around the room.



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.

THE BIBLE

Simeon and Anna Welcome Jesus:
Luke 2:22-40; (Galatians 4:4-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's worship song, "[Jesus, Savior](#)." Share a takeaway from today with the kids, and explain how today's worship song connects to this.*
- This time of year brings a lot of anticipation. Whether we are waiting for gifts, time with family, or an amazing time at church, we all know something great is happening!
- **What makes Jesus' birth so different from any other we could wait for?**

ACTIVITY | Use Your Head

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell each kid and leader to write the name of a fictional character on a piece of paper and place all of the slips of paper into a basket. Then, have everyone pull a fictional character's name and tape it to a headband, then place the band on their forehead. Everyone can now walk around the room and try to get each other to guess whose name is on their forehead.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Turn this into a "Twenty Questions" game with your preteens and segue into a discussion. Check out the Preteen Hacks document for this week for more details.*
- **What was it like to guess your character's name?**
- When we know the name in advance, it helps us make sense of the clues we are given. This week, we're going to learn who we've been waiting for after all of these weeks of clues and descriptions!

ACTIVITY | Wheel of Waiting

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can either make your own spinning wheel or use a [virtual spinning wheel](#) to create your own “Wheel of Fortune” game. Fill in the wheel with possible prizes (e.g., specific amount of candy, points, and add a bankrupt slot, too.). Kids will take turns «spinning» the wheel to guess the phrase (choose from the list below) one letter at a time. Use a dry erase board or chalkboard to keep track of the letters and words, similar to Wheel of Fortune. The game ends when all the phrases are revealed.
 - Wait for it
 - Wait a second/minute
 - Don’t keep me waiting
 - Good things come to those who wait
 - Wait for the dust to settle
 - An accident waiting to happen
 - Lying in wait
 - Why wait

ACTIVITY | Await in a Manger

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out the chart, manger, and Bible people from [this printable](#) and hand them out to the kids. Have them cut out the people. Choose one kid to come up and roll the die (or use [online dice](#)). Have kids reference their charts to see which character corresponds with that number and put that person inside the stable. Keep rolling until all of the people are in the stable!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** After rolling the dice, have each kid explain who the person is in the Nativity story: is it Joseph, Mary, one of the Magi, an angel, a shepherd, or Baby Jesus? Ask them to explain the significance of that person to the story of Christmas before they place the character on the background image of the stable.
- The story of Jesus is filled with lots of important people, and most of them are talked about before Jesus is born. But we know the real reason for this season. Jesus is the one we’ve been waiting for!

POLL | To Wait or Not to Wait

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a series of questions listed below and tell the kids to hop for the first option and spin once for the second option.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Check your Preteen Hacks document for this week for some more questions you can discuss with your preteens!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Write the possible responses on poster boards, and as you ask each question, have two adult volunteers hold up the possible answers (e.g., For the first question, the poster boards can say, “playground” and “roller coaster”). Have kids then run behind the volunteer holding the sign they most identify with. Have them come back as a large group before asking the next poll question.
- **Would you rather wait for your turn at the playground or for a ride on a roller coaster?**
- **Would you rather wait for dessert or wait for the weekend?**
- **Would you rather wait for a package to arrive or wait to unwrap a gift?**

- **Would you rather wait to give someone a gift or surprise a friend with a visit?**
- Some things are easy to wait for and other things are really hard to wait for. But we know that waiting on God's promises is always worth it!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:22-40

- **How many of you have ever gone to visit a baby before? What are some things people say when they see a new child?**
- Most of the time, people talk about how cute the baby is or how much they look like the mom or the dad or how big or little they are. But no one says, "I've been waiting my whole life to see this baby and now that I have, I can finally rest in peace." No, that's totally weird, right? But we are going to hear about two people in the Bible who pretty much said just that – but for good reason!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Luke 2:22-40. Have a couple volunteers come up and act out the story with you. Have Simeon read his lines (i.e., verses 28-32, 34-35) and have Anna, Joseph, and Mary pantomime what is happening as you read the Scripture. You might also want to have a swaddled baby doll as a prop.*
- Simeon and Anna each had been waiting for the Savior for a very long time. God had spoken to Simeon and told him he would meet the Savior during his lifetime. Anna prayed and fasted regularly – that means she gave up eating certain foods for certain periods of time – because she knew that God would send a Savior one day.
- And the Savior finally came – Jesus was born to save all the people. **Anyone know what Jesus came to save us from?** That's right, from our sins. And even though they would have to wait a little while longer until Jesus grew up for this to happen, the waiting was pretty much over – the Savior had come!

THE BIG IDEA | **Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the two giant dice from last week and tell the kids to take turns passing and rolling the dice. When they roll two of the same number, they get to uncover the Big Idea! Then, have all of the kids to say the Big Idea together.*
- You did it! Now for one more roll . . . a drumroll!
- Today's Big Idea is: **Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.**

VIDEO | **Wait For It, Episode 4**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

STORY | **Jesus For the Win**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story about a time when Jesus helped you and came through for you.*
- Sometimes, these moments feel like the part of a superhero movie where the citizens are in trouble, but they look to the sky because they know help is on the way! **Jesus is the one we have been waiting for**, and always follows through when we look to Jesus for help.

ACTIVITY | Anna and Simeon Scene It?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this [video](#) of Anna and Simeon. Give each kid a pencil and paper, and have them write 2-3 trivia questions (and the answers) as they watch the video. They can be questions about the Bible story or questions specific to the scene (e.g., “What color is Simeon wearing in the video?”). Once they are done, split the group into two teams – and now each team has a bank of trivia questions. Have teams ask each other one question at a time about the video (you can moderate controversial questions), and the team who gets the most number of questions correct wins!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** While playing the video, pause periodically to ask kids about what is happening in that frozen scene. You can ask them to identify details in that scene, or about what the narrator was just talking about.
- **What made Jesus’ birth so special to Anna and Simeon?**
- Simeon and Anna obeyed God and they got to see God’s promises. When Anna and Simeon listened for God, they knew what to look for when the Savior came. They knew **Jesus was the one they had been waiting for.**

SCRIPTURE | Galatians 4:4-7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Bible verse reference in a place where everyone can see it. Then, ask the kids to hold their Bibles in the air and on the count of three, have them race to find the scripture! Once they find it, have them indicate it by hopping around on one foot. Note the first four people to find it and have them come up and read one verse at a time.
- **Have you ever heard of kids without families that were waiting to be adopted into one?** The waiting can take many years. Can you imagine how happy someone would be if they finally got adopted after so much waiting?
- Because of sin, all of us have lost a connection with our spiritual family, and because of Jesus we all have a chance to be adopted back into it! And because we are a part of God’s family, we are rightful heirs to all that God gives to us – what belongs to God now belongs to us!
- Receiving this gift reminds us waiting is totally worth it! **Jesus is the one we’ve been waiting for!**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Wait for My Pair

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Wait for My Pair printable, cut out the pictures, and pass out one picture or name to each kid and help them tape it on their backs. Instruct them to go around and try to find their match, however, they can only ask people “yes” or “no” questions to try and figure out who they are.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of taping these on their backs, tape them up around the room. Partner kids up with a peer buddy and have them find matching pairs around the room.

- Each person here had a match that was a part of their pretend family. It was fun finding out who we belong to. Some of us have just been waiting to know how we fit into God's family. **Jesus is the one we have been waiting for** to show us how we belong to God.

REFLECTION | Royals

- When God talks about us being a part of this family, it's not just any family – it's a royal family!
- **What do you think are some privileges and honors that only royals can have access to?**
- Yes, it seems like royalty has it pretty good. But you know what? Each of us are kings and queens in the kingdom family of God. Jesus came to remind us that not only are we God's children . . . we are royals! Turn to the person next to you and say, "Your Highness!"
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask the kids to talk a little bit about each of these words: heir, worthy, royal. Help them process what it means that they themselves are worthy heirs in a royal family!

MEMORY VERSE | Delayed Gratification

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, wrap several small gifts, each containing a small word or passage from the memory verse. Tell all of the kids to sit in a circle, then give one kid a gift. When the music starts, they should start passing the gift around until the music stops. Wherever the gift lands when the music stops, that kid is handed a pair of oven mitts and has to try and open the gift. When the gift is opened, they should take the paper with the words inside and put it in the middle of the circle. Continue playing until all the gifts are opened and all of the words are put in order to make the memory verse.

PRAYER

- Jesus, we're thankful that you are the one we've been waiting for all along. You became human to understand every human that was, is, and ever will be! You are the one we have been waiting for, and we can't wait to know You more and more each day. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What was the name of the man in Jerusalem waiting for Jesus?
- What was the name of the woman in Jerusalem waiting for Jesus?
- Who promised Jesus would be coming?
- Read Galatians 4:7. What does it mean when it says we are "God's own child?"
- Simeon listened to God and God guided him to the temple on the right day at the right time to meet Jesus. How can you listen for God?
- Anna prayed and fasted while waiting for God. How can you spend time growing closer to God while waiting?
- Who is someone in your life you can tell about God who doesn't know about God yet?

ACTIVITY | Family Bingo!

- **Are there other people in your family who knows Jesus and is a part of God's family? How about friends? Who are people in your life who don't know about Jesus yet?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to fill out the Bingo printable and fill the card with names of everyone they know, such as "mom," "dad," "Aunt Carol," etc. When they are done, tell them to tell you all the names they each wrote, and you type them into a randomizer site like this [one](#). Then, play "Bingo" by "spinning" the wheel and tell the kids to cross off the names the randomizer selects.*
- The Bible tells us that through Jesus, we are a part of God's family. But we also have a family on Earth we are a part of as well. Spend time praying for your family and thanking God for the people God has put in your life!

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*