



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL 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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship
- ACTIVITY** | Wait!
- ACTIVITY** | The Rename Game

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Luke 2:22-40
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.
- VIDEO** | Wait For It, Episode 4
- ACTIVITY** | Await in a Manger
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Gingerbread Temple
- ACTIVITY** | Countdown Showdown
- ACTIVITY** | Countdown Clock
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | The Waiting Game
- ACTIVITY** | Life-Size Board Game



BY DARBY GEORGE

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

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

ACTIVITY | The Rename Game

Lay out Christmas items in a pile. Describe each of the items and have kids pick out the correct item (e.g., "Presents go inside this and I hang this up by the fireplace").

ACTIVITY | Await in a Manger

Cut out each of the items and create stands for them out of paper or stick them in pieces of clay. Have kids play with the characters as you retell the Christmas story.

ACTIVITY | Countdown Showdown

Have the volunteer put up a number of fingers between one and five. Ask toddlers how many fingers they are holding up. Have them walk forward that many steps.

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

Use nesting boxes and have toddlers take turns opening the lid of the outermost box. Put some treats or a toy everyone can play with inside the smallest box. Sing the song you made up last week to review the memory verse with the kids.



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.

THE BIBLE

Simeon and Anna Welcome Jesus:
Luke 2:22-40

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare to lead the kids into a fun time of worship with songs like, "[Jesus, Savior of the world.](#)"

ACTIVITY | Wait!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw an [outline of a stable](#) on poster paper. Print and cut out each of the characters in the printable for this week. Hide each of the four pieces around the room before the kids arrive, then once all of them are found, help the kids place the characters inside the stable with the letters in the correct order to spell, "WAIT." Remind the kids that Jesus' birth was worth waiting for!

ACTIVITY | The Rename Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bring in or print pictures of Christmas-themed objects (e.g., candy cane, stocking, jingle bell, Christmas tree, etc.) and encourage the kids to use their creativity to rename these objects and come up with alternate uses for them. The sillier, the better!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Lay out Christmas items in a pile. Describe each of the items and have kids pick out the correct item (e.g., "Presents go inside this and I hang this up by the fireplace").

- **What was it like to come up with a new name for this holiday object?**
- When we know the name of something beforehand, we have a better idea of what it does and what it's for. Remember last time we learned that the angel told Mary that she would have a baby named Jesus? Today we will learn exactly who Jesus is, and why people have been waiting for him!

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:22-40

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to make a clock noise ("Tick-tock, tick-tock") every time they hear about someone waiting in the story.*
- After Jesus was born, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. It was tradition for babies to be taken to the temple so that they could receive prayer and blessing. So, Mary and Joseph traveled and waited (*Tick-tock, tick-tock*), finally arriving in Jerusalem with Jesus.
- There in Jerusalem was a man named Simeon. Simeon was a good man who loved God very much and he had been waiting (*Tick-tock, tick-tock*) for God's promise to come true. God's Spirit was with Simeon and told Simeon that he would not have to wait (*Tick-tock, tick-tock*) forever and would see the Savior soon.
- God led Simeon to the temple courtyard just as Jesus' parents brought Jesus in. Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and praised God! He said, "God, you are King over all. This is what You have promised. My eyes have seen how You will save everyone." Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said about Jesus.
- Also at the temple was a prophet named Anna. She was very old and stayed at the temple praising God. Like Simeon, she was waiting (*Tick-tock, tick-tock*) on the promised Savior. When Anna saw Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, she walked up to them and gave thanks to God. She told everyone there about Jesus and how God had kept a promise to the people. Their wait (*Tick-tock, tick-tock*) was over!
- Joseph and Mary did everything God required of them and Jesus grew and became strong and wise!

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the giant dice from the previous weeks and encourage 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, ask all of the kids to say the Big Idea together.*
- Now, for one more roll – everyone give me 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 preschool [teaching video](#).*

ACTIVITY | Await in a Manger

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out this [printable](#) and make sure each kid has a chart, stable, and Bible people. Cut out the people. Choose one kid to start and tell them to roll the dice. Then, look to see which person corresponds with that number and put that person in the manger. Keep rolling until all of the people are in the manger! Repeat the game, if time allows, so everyone has a chance to roll the dice.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Cut out each of the items and create stands for them out of paper or stick them in pieces of clay. Have kids play with the characters as you retell the Christmas story.
- The story of Jesus is filled with lots of important people, and most of them are talked about before Jesus was born. But we know the real reason for the Christmas season: **Jesus is the one we've been waiting for!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, we thank you for sending Jesus. You kept your promise to the people in the Bible, like Simeon and Anna, who were waiting for the Savior and you keep your promises to us. We love you. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Gingerbread Temple**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid four graham crackers and instruct them to build a temple out of it. They can use icing and small candies to decorate their temple and stick it together.
- **What is your favorite thing to do on Christmas?**
- **What was on your wish list this year?**
- **What songs do you like to sing around Christmas time?**

ACTIVITY | Countdown Showdown

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line up the kids on one end of the room. Choose one adult volunteer to stand on the other end of the room. Give the adult volunteer a large box or bucket of candy canes. The kids and the volunteer will turn around, facing opposite walls, and on the count of three, they will hold up a number on their fingers, between one and five. Have them turn around to see the numbers. Any kid who has the same number of fingers up as the volunteer gets to take three steps forward. The game continues until everyone reaches the volunteer and gets a candy cane. As kids enjoy their treat, discuss the questions below.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have the volunteer put up a number of fingers between one and five. Ask toddlers how many fingers they are holding up. Have them walk forward that many steps.
- **Where did Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus?**
- **What were Simeon and Anna waiting for?**
- **How did they react when they saw Jesus at the temple?**

ACTIVITY | Countdown Clock

- How many of you counted down the day until Christmas? When you count down to Christmas, you are waiting for the day Jesus was born! **Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.**
- We can countdown to other things, like the new year. Many things change in the new year . . . just like how everything changed when Jesus finally came to Earth.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut construction paper in two by five-inch strips. Give each kid as many strips of paper as there are days until the new year, and encourage them to decorate it. Loop the strips together and secure them with tape or staples, creating a chain. Instruct the kids to tear off one strip each day, creating a countdown!*
- After many many years of waiting, Jesus was born. God sent Jesus for you and me. **What are some things you want to do in the new year to thank God for sending Jesus?**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, wrap a gift box containing the memory verse printable in several layers of different kinds of wrapping paper. 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. Whoever has the gift when the music stops gets to unwrap one layer of wrapping paper. Continue playing until all the layers of wrapping paper are torn off and the memory verse is out of the box. Say and repeat the memory verse a few times with the kids.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACKS:** *Use nesting boxes and have toddlers take turns opening the lid of the outermost box. Put some treats or a toy everyone can play with inside the smallest box. Sing the song you made up last week to review the memory verse with the kids.*

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.*

ACTIVITY | The Waiting Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Every week in Wait For It, try out a new board game with your kids to reinforce the idea of having to wait before getting a win. You can play any game you have available, but you might want to check out "[The Sneaky Snacky Squirrel](#)," a game that involves a little strategy!*

ACTIVITY | Life-Size Board Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take puzzle play mats (or colored construction paper) to create a [life-size board game](#) in your room. Use one of the giant die from the Big Idea reveal and have kids move as many spaces as the number they roll. For added fun, have them go to the next space in silly ways (e.g., hopping, crawling, walking backwards, dancing, somersaulting, etc.).

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.