



WEEK 1: Waiting – Waiting with Hope, the story of Simeon & Anna

Date: Dec. 6, 2020

Bible Passages: Luke 2:22-40

Bottom Line: Hope is not wishful, positive thinking; but a confidence in God's past actions continuing through the present to produce the promised end that he has in mind. When we wait hope-fully, we have reason to hold on and patience to endure.

Video: <https://youtu.be/6Go0mflGnR8>

Preparation: Mom and/or dad, take time to prepare well for this spiritual experience with your son or daughter and perhaps their friends. Proper preparation includes reading through this guide, setting up a comfortable environment, preparing the videos, materials (*everyone will need a Bible, pen and notebook/journal*) and snacks, and prayer. It also includes giving your participants time to prepare as well. Let them know in advance what you want to do and then remind them a few minutes before your start time so that they are ready too.

Interactive game / activity

- Christmas Carol Pictionary - Using the list below, take turns drawing songs and guessing.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Away in a Manger ○ I Heard the Bells on Christmas day ○ Little Drummer Boy ○ We Three Kings ○ O Little Town of Bethlehem ○ Santa Clause is Coming to Town ○ Carol of the Bells ○ The First Noel ○ Hark! The Harrold Angels Sing ○ Silent Night ○ O Come, All Ye Faithful ○ What Child is This? ○ Baby, It's Cold Outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go Tell it on the Mountain ● Jingle Bells ● Silver Bells ● Winter Wonderland ● Oh Christmas Tree ● Angels we have Heard on High ● Do you Hear what I Hear? ● God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen ● Joy to the World ● Mary, Did You Know? ● Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer ● Sleigh Ride ● I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause
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Activity Debrief: (This would be a good time to pass out snacks)

- What is your favorite Christmas carol? Which Christmas carol do you wish to never hear again?

Video Teaching: Waiting with Hope – Simeon & Anna <https://youtu.be/6Go0mflGnR8>

Set-up: ““Today we finish up our series titled “Friend Request.” Last week we learned about hospitality by looking at a friendship between the Apostle Paul and a lady named Lydia. Today, as we conclude our series, we will look at how to have healthy conflict and talk about a conflict between the Apostle Paul, a man named Philemon, and a man named Onesimus.”

Play the video [HERE](#)

Ice Breaker:

- In your humble opinion, what is the BEST part of Christmas? What is it hardest to wait for?
- What do you do to pass the time while you are waiting?

Discussion Starters:

- Why do you think waiting is hard?
- The video said we tend to wait for things not worth waiting for, or we wait in the wrong way. Which of these two things are you more guilty of?
- What do you think it would have been like to be Simeon or Anna? (Luke 2:22-40)

Scripture: Read James 5:7-11 together as a group. James letter encourages the church to be faithful in the face of trial and tribulation that threatened their lives. What can you learn from James here?

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Digging Deeper:

- What advice does James give his audience for waiting during hard times? (don't grumble)
 - Why does James warn us against grumbling? How does grumbling affect us? You? Others?
- Who does James point us to for inspiration for waiting and hope? (the Lord's coming, the prophets Job) What can these people teach us about waiting, patience, and hope?
- "The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." How can this help us in our waiting?

Application:

- What are you currently waiting for? What have you learned from Simeon, Anna, and James that can help you in your waiting?
- Who in your life needs strength and hope as they wait? Who can you encourage them like James encouraged his friends to wait patiently? What can you do to encourage them?
- James encourages his friends to stop grumbling and to start thinking about inspiring people (like Job). What habits do you need to stop and/or start this Christmas to strengthen your hope?

1:15 **Closing activity & prayer:** choose 1 of the following options for the whole group together.

- Singing: We've provided a worship song and a Christmas song, themed to hope and waiting. Pick one.

Together sing, "[While I Wait](https://youtu.be/NswPPVgMaPE)" by Lincoln Brewster (<https://youtu.be/NswPPVgMaPE>)

Or, sing, "[O Come O Come, Emmanuel](https://youtu.be/draHA_9MS18)," by For King & Country (https://youtu.be/draHA_9MS18)

- Journal Response: James calls us to stop grumbling. Use your journal time to create a list of the things you grumble about most. Then review the list and confess these things to God, asking him to forgive you and give you strength to stop grumbling about these things and start reflecting on people that inspire, like Job, the prophets, and Jesus.

(You may even benefit from sharing this list with your family so they can help you avoid grumbling and refocus on things that inspire hope this season.)

- Scripture Response: Read and memorize Psalm 33:20-21

*"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name."*

- Prayer: encourage your son or daughter to use their notebooks to record prayer requests for the family. In addition to family requests, include the following...
 - How can we pray for the church and believers around the world today as we wait for Christmas?
 - How can we pray for our own church and church family today?
 - How can we pray for one another, in this household, today? How can we pray for you?
 - CLOSE IN PRAYER.