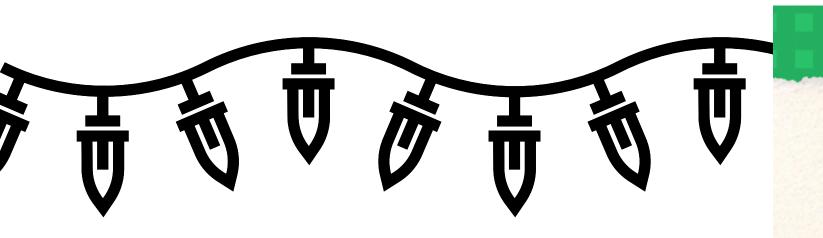
H PEKING SERVICE COMPANION

DECEMBER 27, 2020

THIS PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Custom sermon note pages for kids to enjoy during the service
- Colouring / Activity pages
- Two devotionals with discussion guide and activities designed to create conversation around this week's Big Idea - one for older children and the other for younger
- Memory verse cards





THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVEN ENERGY

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him



Romans 15:13a NIV

DEC 6, 13, 20 - FOR OLDER CHILDREN

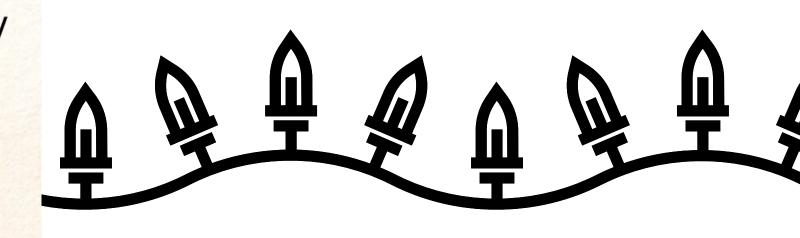


May the God of hope fill you as you trust in Him



from Romans 15:13a NIV

MEMORY VERSE



DEVOTIONAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Ask your child if they like waiting. Ask them if they would wait one day for a big surprise? Then watch this short video together:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTS_ohuhhPA

Tell your child this story from Luke 2:22-38 about two people who waited a long time for what they wanted to see or watch this quick video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkjbo&t=95s

Do you remember that Jesus was born in a very special way? He left Heaven to come to earth to save people from their sins. Shepherds and wise men came to worship Him. And He had to be born in a stable because there wasn't any place to stay! That was pretty strange. And remember the angels? They came to tell the shepherds about Jesus' birth.

When Jesus was still a baby, Joseph and Mary took Him to the Temple, just like we go to church. The Jewish law said that the parents of a new baby needed to do some special things to bless the child. They were to bring animals to give to God so Jesus' parents took two birds to the Temple.

The Bible says that there was a man of God named Simeon who was at the Temple when Jesus and his parents came there. Simeon was very old. He had been waiting many years for the One God would send to save His people. God had promised Simeon that he would get to see the child. When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew that He had been sent from God even though Jesus was just a baby! Isn't that amazing?

Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Lord, I have seen the Savior you have given to all people. He is a light to lead all people to God." Simeon was not the only one who was excited to see Jesus! A elderly widow named Anna was also in the Temple that day. Anna was a woman who worshipped God all the time. She was very close to God. While Simeon was talking to Mary and Joseph, Anna began praising God too! She told everyone about Jesus, that He would save them from sin.

Simeon and Anna received a special blessing. They got to see Jesus after waiting so many years!

Say, "What a wonderful story from God's Word! Simeon and Anna knew that God had promised the gift of his Son—Jesus—and they were ready to receive that gift. Let's think for a minute about gifts we've received." Spend some time recalling gifts your child or family has received spontaneously or for a special occasion.

Say, "We give gifts to people we love or people who need something. God wanted to show us how much he loves us, so God gave us a perfect gift. Jesus is God's gift. We learned that Simeon and Anna had waited a long, long, long time for Jesus. They knew that Jesus would be God's gift to the world, and they kept waiting for Jesus even though it was hard. The good news is that we don't have to wait for Jesus—he's already here with us and we can talk to him anytime we want. What a wonderful gift!"

Pray together thanking God for the gift of Jesus to the world.

DEVOTIONALFOR OLDER CHILDREN



How long would you wait

In line at McDonald's for your order	10 minutes	2 hours	One full day
On your computer buying concert tickets	30 minutes	5 hours	Overnight
For a new house to be built	10 weeks	2 years	A decade
Outside in the rain for a ride	2 minutes	10 minutes	One hour
For a friend who is late	5 minutes	20 minutes	4 hours

Waiting is hard and most people don't wait well. We complain, whine, get a bad attitude, leave, and just generally give up because we think our time is too precious to be wasted waiting, even if what we are waiting for is well worth it! Some research says that we won't even wait for two seconds for a video to load on our phones – yikes! Today because things happen so fast and things are upgraded so often, it's getting harder and harder to learn how to wait well.

You think it's hard to wait in line for ten minutes? Try 400 years!

Simeon and Anna were two people in the Bible who waited a loooong time to get what they wanted. Both were waiting to see the Messiah before they died. In the Old Testament, God promised that He would send a Messiah, or Chosen One, to save all people. The people waited and waited but God had gone silent on the Israelites for 400 years. He hadn't spoken through a prophet or given any sign that He was working. But then, at just the right time, God sent Jesus to earth. And Simeon and Anna got to see Him, as a little baby who they knew would eventually save all people from their sins. Their wait was totally worth it in the end, even though it was no doubt long and hard at times.

Have a read of Simeon and Anna's story in Luke 2:22-38 or check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkjbo&t=95s

Sometimes we may want to give up on God. He may not move quickly enough for us, especially in the big things in life like waiting for someone to get well or for a prayer to be answered. But we need to remember that God always keeps His promises! We have to be patient and know that God is in control. His timing is always perfect.

Next time you are tempted to whine or complain about waiting (for both the big and small things of life), remember the example of Simeon and Anna. Consider the fact that waiting allows us to trust in God and to be reminded that He's in control. And when your waiting is over, don't forget to thank Him!!

