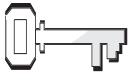


Waiting Patiently?



References

Genesis 8:1-14;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 98, 105



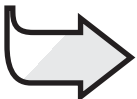
Memory Verse

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that people in God’s family work together as they wait for Jesus to come.
Feel the joy of seeing a task through to completion.
Respond by cheerfully finishing the work they are asked to do.



The Message

People in God’s family wait patiently together for Him.

Monthly Theme

We show love by working together in our community.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After 40 days of rain and 150 days while the waters recede, the ark comes to a resting place on top of a mountain. Forty days later Noah opens the window in the top of the boat and sends out a raven. Later, he sends out a dove that returns because it can’t find a resting place. A week later the dove is released again and this time returns with a new leaf from an olive tree. One more week passes and another dove is sent out. This time, the dove doesn’t return. Noah and his family wait a long time for the Flood and its effects to end. While they wait they continue to do the work that has to be done.

This is a lesson about community.

One of the hardest things to do is wait for a promise to be fulfilled. This is as true for groups of people as it is for individuals. Even though we sometimes have to wait to see the results, we can still work together to help ourselves and others.

Teacher Enrichment

“For seven days after Noah and his family entered the ark, there appeared no sign of the coming storm. During this period their faith was tested. It was a time of triumph to the world without. The apparent delay confirmed them in the belief that Noah’s message was a delusion, and that the Flood would never come” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 98, 99).

“. . . For five long months their boat was tossed about, apparently at the mercy of wind and wave. It was a trying ordeal; but Noah’s faith did not waver, for he had the assurance that the divine hand was upon the helm” (*ibid.*, p. 105).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

Program Overview

Lesson Section

Minutes

Activities

Materials Needed

Welcome

ongoing

Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled

1

Readiness Options

up to 10

A. *Simon Slowly Says*
B. *Waiting Faces*

none
paper; colored pencils, markers or crayons

Any Time

Prayer and Praise*

up to 10

Fellowship
Songbook
Mission
Offering
Prayer

none
Sing for Joy
Children's Mission
toy boat or other device
none

2

Bible Lesson

up to 20

Experiencing the Story

Memory Verse

Bible Study

masking tape or chalk, toy stuffed animals
chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker
Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

up to 15

Waiting Patiently

slips of paper, pen, basket, Bibles, *Sing for Joy*

4

Sharing the Lesson

up to 15

Birds

raven and dove patterns (see p. 143), paper, scissors, art supplies, craft sticks or tongue depressors, glue, Bibles

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been, what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Simon Slowly Says

Play Simon Says with the children. Have them line up across the back of the room. Give commands such as: "Take two baby steps forward." Give the commands very s-l-o-w-l-y. Make it agonizingly slow so they will have to have some patience.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did you enjoy playing this game? What were you thinking about when I was giving directions? Was I a little slow or just right? Were you anxious about anything? Perhaps you became impatient with me. Why do we become impatient when waiting? Our Bible story today is about Noah and his family waiting patiently in the ark for a long time. The memory verse is "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV). Sometimes we may get weary or tired of doing something, or of waiting. But God promises us blessings if we don't give up. Our message today is:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WAIT PATIENTLY TOGETHER FOR HIM.

Say that with me.

B. Waiting Faces

Ask the children to draw a picture of their face while waiting in line a long time for something. They should be prepared to tell about that experience.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who would like to share their picture with the class? (Allow time for sharing and telling about experiences.) Do you like waiting for things? Why? Why do we become impatient when waiting? Our Bible story today is about Noah and his family waiting in the ark for many months. Sometimes we may get weary or tired of doing good, or waiting for the right time. Our memory verse says: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV). Let's remember our message for today:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY WAIT PATIENTLY TOGETHER FOR HIM.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- paper
- colored pencils or markers or crayons

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "I Want to Be Ready" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 127)
- "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 89)
- "Do, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 91)
- "In His Time" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 42)
- "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 92)
- "When He Cometh" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 93)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Have the children bring their offerings two by two, like the animals who went into the ark.



Prayer

Pray that the children will learn, like Noah, to wait on the Lord.

You Need:

- toy boat or other container

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- masking tape or chalk
- toy stuffed animals

Experiencing the Story

Setting the scene:

Use chalk or tape to make an outline of the ark on the floor. (Make it big enough so all the children can sit within its boundaries.) Ask: **What do you think Noah and his family took with them into the ark?** (food, clothing, animal food, bedding, linens, etc.) **Pretend we have all those things in here. Now the animals have to come in.** Give each child a toy animal to put in the center of the space. **Now it's time for the people to get in.** Have all the children sit in the ark space in a circle facing each other with their arms linked. They will probably be crowded. **Now we're ready for the storm to begin.**

At the appropriate time have the children close their eyes and rock to the right and to the left to simulate the motion of the ark on the waves. Remind them that Noah's family had to live with a similar motion for six weeks during the Flood.

At the appropriate time, talk about the raven and dove and have the students make a flying bird by linking their thumbs together and "wave" as birds. Mention that ravens use other birds' nests; they don't build their own. That's probably another reason the raven came back when it couldn't find a place to land.

Read or tell the story.

The waiting started the day Noah, his family, and all the animals went into the ark and God sent an angel to close the door. They waited in the ark for seven days before anything happened, but when it finally did, it happened big! The Bible says "the springs of the great deep

burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened" (Genesis 7:11, NIV). Water poured down from heaven and shot up from the earth. The big storm lasted for 40 days and nights, and then, finally, it grew quiet outside the ark.

Noah and his family must have wondered what would happen next. For the next 150 days the ark rocked quietly on the water, and then the flood waters started to go down. They must have been excited the day the ark bumped against something hard and came to rest. But they sat there for three more months before the tops of the mountains became visible.

By now they'd been in the ark about eight months. Perhaps they were getting on each other's nerves. They must have been tired of feeding animals and shoveling manure day after day. But still they did their work, and they waited.

After 40 more days, Noah opened the window in the ark and let a raven fly out. It soon came back. Later he sent out a dove, but it came back to the ark too. It couldn't find a place to land. A week later Noah sent the dove out again. This time it returned with a fresh olive leaf in its mouth. After one more week Noah sent the dove out once more, and this time it didn't come back. *Surely, he must have thought, we must be getting out of the ark soon!*

But there was still more waiting. Nearly eleven months after God closed the door to the ark, Noah celebrated his 601st birthday. He removed the covering from the ark and looked out. The sun streamed in! The ground was dry! Surely God would open the door and let them out soon! But it was still more than six weeks before that happened. They had been in the ark for a year and 10 days. Their waiting was finally over.

God promised Noah and his family

that He would bring them safely through the Flood. They waited a long time to see that promise fulfilled. We, too, are waiting for a promise to be completed. Philip-
pians 3:20 says, "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (NIV). It seems we've been waiting a long time, doesn't it?

God has given us other believers to help us with the waiting. He has also given us work to do while we wait. We are to share His good news. We can encourage each other and work together while we wait for that promise to be fulfilled. Jesus said He would come, and He will!

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think Noah and his family got upset with each other while on the ark? What do you think they did if they were annoyed with each other?**

What do you do when you are upset with someone in your family? What does Jesus want you to do?

How do you think Noah and his family passed the time while waiting? What do you do when you have to wait a long time?

Have we waited a long time for Jesus to come? Remember our message? Let's say it together:



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WAIT PATIENTLY TOGETHER
FOR HIM.**

Memory Verse

Write the memo-
ry verse on the
board. Say: **Today
we're talking about
waiting and having
patience. Our
memory verse is
about not giving up. Let's learn the
verse by saying it as fast as we can.** Go

You Need:

- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or marker

over the verse a few times and speed up each time. Say it fast, but understandable.

The memory verse is: **"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV).**

Bible Study

In advance, write each text below on a piece of paper. Form six groups (small class, give each child a text or two) and help the children find and read the texts.

Say: **Since we're talking about waiting for things today, let's look at some people in the Bible who waited for things. Some were patient, some were not. Look up the verses to find out who was waiting and what they were waiting for.**

Genesis 18:9-14 (Abraham and Sarah waiting for a child)

Genesis 29:18, 20 (Jacob waiting to marry Rachel)

Numbers 14:26-34 (Israelites waiting to enter Canaan)

1 Samuel 1:2-5, 10-17 (Hannah waiting for a child)

Matthew 1:17 (the world waiting for the Messiah)

Luke 2:25-32 (Simeon waiting for the Messiah)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Were all of these people patient as they waited? Who was the most patient? Why do you think so?**

Who was not patient? What kind of trouble did they get into? What did some do while they waited?

For what are we waiting today? (Jesus' return) Let's repeat our message for today:



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WAIT PATIENTLY TOGETHER
FOR HIM.**

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- slips of paper
- pen
- basket
- Bibles
- *Sing for Joy*

Waiting Patiently

In advance, write some things or events the children may be waiting for on slips of paper and put them in a basket.

Let the children take turns choosing a paper and acting out what it says while the other children guess.

Some examples: waiting for a bigger bicycle, waiting for their birthday, waiting for a pet, waiting until they are old enough to drive, waiting to get baptized, waiting to finish school, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why is waiting so hard? What are some things you can do to make waiting easier? (Don't whine and complain,

find something to do, etc.)

What big event are God's people waiting for today? Find and read Philippians 3:20. Allow time for reading and discussing the text.

What can a community do to make the waiting time pass pleasantly? (Find ways to work together to help others; encourage one another.)

Let's sing a song about waiting for Jesus to come. Sing "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 89).

Won't that be a wonderful day when we see Jesus? I think we'll feel that the waiting has been worth it! In the meantime, remember:



**PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY
WAIT PATIENTLY TOGETHER
FOR HIM.**

4

Sharing the Lesson

Birds

Distribute art supplies. Give the children a choice of cutting out and decorating a raven or a dove. (See page 143.) Glue the birds onto the craft sticks or tongue depressors for ease of handling. Let the children practice “flying” their bird.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Who would like to look up a verse for us? Find Isaiah 40:30, 31 and read it for us. Adults assist as needed.

Do you know someone who is waiting for something to happen in their lives?

Do you know someone who is waiting for Jesus to come?

Take your bird home with you and share it with them and tell them about Noah and his family and how they waited patiently for the water to go down. Also tell them how you are waiting patiently for Jesus to come again. Let’s say our message together again:



**PEOPLE IN GOD’S FAMILY
WAIT PATIENTLY TOGETHER
FOR HIM.**

Closing

In a short prayer ask God to help the children wait patiently together for Jesus’ return.

You Need:

- raven and dove patterns (see p. 143)
- paper
- scissors
- art supplies
- craft sticks or tongue depressors
- glue
- Bibles

Waiting Patiently?

References

Genesis 8:1-14;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*,
pp. 98, 105

Memory Verse

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

The Message

People in God’s family wait patiently together for Him.

Have you ever had to stay inside because of rain—days and days of rain? And when it stopped, was the ground muddy? Perhaps you have heard the phrase “cabin fever.” It’s what happens to people who are stuck indoors for a long time. They become anxious and uneasy. They become irritable. They want to see and do something—anything. Noah and his family must have had the worst case ever.

The waiting started the day Noah, his family, and all the animals went into the ark. God sent an angel to close the door. They waited in the ark for seven days before anything happened. When it finally did, it happened big! The Bible says “the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened” (Genesis 7:11, NIV). Water poured down from heaven and shot up from the earth!

Only God knew if elephants would get seasick in a ship in the middle of a flood. Noah didn’t know. His wife and children didn’t know either. No one had ever needed to put elephants in a boat before.

Things were busy in the ark. Mostly there were animals to calm down, feed, and clean up after. Some of that wasn’t easy in a big boat tossing up and down on angry flood waters. It wasn’t too clean either, and it probably didn’t smell very good.

God had promised Noah that He would protect the ark during the Flood. And He did. His angels kept the ark from capsizing (tipping over and going under).

Finally, after 40 days the rain stopped. Noah and his family must have wondered when they could safely leave the ark. But the wind still blew and the waves still tossed the boat around for five

more months. Then the Lord made the ark float into a protected spot in the Ararat Mountains. He made a wind blow to dry up the rest of the Flood waters. Two and a half months later Noah and his family could see the tops of the mountains near the ark.

By now they had been in the ark about eight months. They must have been tired of feeding animals and shoveling manure day after day. But still they did their work—and they waited. “When do you think we will be able to get out on dry land again?” they must have asked each other.

“God will show us,” Noah probably said over and over again.

Finally, to find out how dry the earth was, Noah let a raven fly out the window. Can’t you just imagine how eagerly all the people in the boat watched as that raven flew back and forth? But it finally came back to the ark. It hadn’t found a resting place.

Later, Noah sent out a dove. It, too, came back to the ark when it couldn’t find a place to land. A week later Noah sent the dove out again. This time it returned with a fresh olive leaf in its mouth. After one more week Noah sent the dove out again. This time it didn’t come back. Surely they must be getting out of the ark soon!

But even though the dove had found a resting place, the earth was still too wet for people. God knew that. So He didn’t send the angel to open the ark’s door yet. Noah and his family waited five whole weeks more! They were busy weeks, with all the chores they still had to do.

There wasn’t any room to spare in the ark. There was a lot of work and plenty of “interesting” animal smells. Still Noah and his family were so glad they had listened to God and entered the ark. They were glad they were together and had each other to depend on.

Noah and his family waited a long time to see God's promise fulfilled. We, too, are waiting for God's promise to us to be fulfilled. Philippians 3:20 says, "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (NIV). It seems we've been waiting a long time, doesn't it?

God has given us family and Christian friends to help us with the waiting. He has also given us a work to do while we wait. He wants us to share His good news. Let's encourage one another and work together while we wait for that wonderful promise to be fulfilled.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 7. Describe the storm. How long did it last? Why didn't everyone leave the ark when the rain stopped?
- Teach your memory verse to your family. Say it as fast as you can, but make it understandable. Did Noah and his family give up?
- Make a list of things you have to wait for (your birthday, summer vacation, to get older, etc.). Share it with your family.

Sunday

- Read the Bible story with your family. Imagine that you are with Noah on the ark right after God closed the door. What are you thinking about during those seven days before it rains? What do you think it was like to live on the ark for a year?
- Share the raven or dove you made in Sabbath School with someone. Tell them about Noah and his family waiting patiently in the ark. Remind them that you are also waiting patiently—for Jesus to return. Pray for that person.

Monday

- What would you like to ask Noah when you get to heaven? Make a list of questions to share with your family during worship.
- Do you know someone who has been waiting a long time for something? Do something today to let them know that you are thinking of them. Ask God to help you.

Tuesday

- During worship today read and discuss Genesis 8:1-14. What happened after the rain stopped? Where did the ark touch land again? Find that place on a world map. In what country is it?
- Ask your family to tell about something they

waited a long time for. Was it worth the wait?

- Find out how much of the earth is covered in water today. (Hint: See an encyclopedia or use the Internet.) Thank God for water.

Wednesday

- With your family read Genesis 7 and 8:1-14 again. Try to figure out how many days Noah and his family were in the ark. How many months was that?
- Play Simon Says with your family but give the commands very s-l-o-w-l-y.
- Ask someone to help you look up information about ravens and doves. What was a raven known for? What is a dove a symbol of today? Thank God for birds.

Thursday

- With your family list three things you can do to help at home when you are waiting for something or someone. Ask God to help you use time wisely.
- Look at a calendar. How many days are in 12 months? That's about the time Noah's family was in the ark. What do you think you will be doing one year from now?
- Ask your family: How many bodies of water can you think of (rivers, lakes, etc.)?

Friday

- Act out life on the ark with your family. What had to be done every day?
- Figure out how many Sabbaths Noah and his family would have celebrated on the ark.
- With your family sing "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 89) or "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 92) very slowly. Do it again even slower. Ask your family if they become impatient singing so slowly. Ask if they ever become impatient waiting for Jesus to come. Ask Jesus to help you to be patient as you wait for Him.