



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 28

Waiting for the King

Take Home Point: *Many years passed and people forgot, but God, ever faithful, he did not.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Matthew 1:1-17

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:2a: "The people who walk in darkness will see a bright light."

We will help kids know:

- God continued to *pass the promise* from the people of the Old Testament to the people of the New Testament.
- God wants us to pass the promise on to others.

We will help kids feel:

- Secure in the knowledge that God always keeps his promises.
- Confident in their ability to share Jesus with others.

We will help kids do:

- Pray for those people who still are in darkness.
- Witness to children who need to know Jesus.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	People in Old Testament times waited a long time for Jesus to be born. Play a game that helps the kids feel what it is like to wait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&M's for each group (at least 10 per child)
Large Group 	4 9-10 11-12 13	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Waiting for the Good Things" Dramatic Presentation: "God Passed the Promise" Puppet Presentation: "Waiting for the Good Things" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent wreath (<i>optional</i>) • one white candle and four others (three blue and one rose around the wreath) • four smaller candles with wax drip protection for the kids • matches • Gordy • candy bar • football with a cross on it • overhead or power point of "God Passed the Promise" poem up on screen (see appendix) • sign to go around neck for each of the following costumed characters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam and Eve • Abraham • Isaac • Jacob and Esau • Judah • David • Isaiah • Mary
Small Group Application 	5-6	Kids will be given a baggie with four pieces of candy. For the next four weeks until Christmas, kids are to find a friend each week with whom they can share a piece of candy. Even sweeter, they can share Jesus with them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baggie with four pieces of candy for each child and note (see p.8) • poem printed on cardstock for each child (see p. 7)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Start today's warm up with a simple waiting game. Say:

People in Old Testament times waited a long time for Jesus to be born. Today we are going to play a game that helps us feel what it is like to wait.

I will give you all some M&M's, but you have to make a choice. If you want them now, you may have five M&M's. But if you wait until large group starts, you may have 10 M&M's. Which would you like?

Give five M&M's to those children who want them now. If none of the children want five, you can take them.

Today is the beginning of a special time in the church year. In fact, it is the first day of the new year. This season or time is called Advent. Advent is the four weeks before Christmas.

Say the following to the children who are eating the M&M's. If none chose to eat them now, eat one or two yourself and continue.

These M&M's sure are great. Is there anyone else here who has changed his mind and wants five M&M's now instead of 10 later?

Ask the above question or do something similar every time you see  from now until the end of warm-up.

Advent means "coming." We are in the Advent season right now. During this season, we look forward to Christmas as we remember how Jesus *came* as a baby. We also think about how we wait for Jesus to *come* again. How long do we wait until Jesus *comes* back to take us to be in heaven with him?

Allow time for students' responses.



Are some of you finding it very difficult to wait on the M&M's? Let's look at Isaiah 9:2, 6-7. Isaiah was a prophet of God. His job was to tell the people about God's promises for the future.

Have the children look up the verses and have someone read them out loud. Discuss the verses. Then read verse 2 again and ask:

The people waiting in darkness were waiting a long time for the light.

Eat an M&M.

Who is “the light?” (*Jesus.*)

Who is the child to be born? (*Jesus.*)

What will he be called? (*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*)

For the older students, read Isaiah 9:6-7 and then ask:

What do you think this child (Jesus) will become? (*A King. “He will establish David’s throne and kingdom.”*)



God’s people had to wait a very long time for Jesus to come. Do you think they ever got tired of waiting? God had promised to *pass the promise*. What do we know about God and promises? (*He always keeps his promises.*)

At the end of warm-up, find out how the children who decided to wait are feeling. There will be a certain amount of tension in the waiting, just as God’s people in the Old Testament had a certain amount of tension in their waiting. Give those who waited ten M&M’s. Then say:

Today we will hear how **many years passed and people forgot; but God, ever faithful, he did not.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Waiting for the Good Things”

Gordy doesn’t like to wait, even if it is five seconds for a piece of candy. It’s even harder than waiting for Christmas. Gordy begins to comprehend how long God’s people had to wait for the promise of a Savior.

Dramatic Presentation: “God Passed the Promise”

A poem is read to depict the Bible characters that have been studied throughout the “Pass the Promise” series. It explains how the promise of God sending his Son to be the Savior of the world is passed from one generation to the next.

Puppet Presentation: “Waiting for the Good Things” Conclusion

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have children look up Matthew 1:1-17.

Who were some of the ancestors of Jesus? What names do you recognize in verse two? (*Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.*) **Verse three?** (*Judah.*) **Verse five?** (*Ruth, Obed, Jesse, King David.*) **Verse six?** (*King Solomon.*) **Verse sixteen?** (*Mary.*)

How long did they have to wait? (*Seven hundred years after Isaiah, a very long time.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Isaiah 9:2 said that the people had walked in darkness. What did that mean? (*They were waiting for "the light," the promised King, Jesus.*)

Do you think it was easy for the people to wait? How do you think they felt?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Do you ever feel like you are walking in darkness? Like the waiting is too long? Maybe you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. How does this lesson help you?

Do you know people who are still waiting in darkness because they don't know Jesus? Do you think that sometimes the waiting seems long to them?

Application Activity:

Earlier we talked about Advent. It means we wait for God's coming. Jesus came as a baby. He comes into our hearts and he will come again someday.

I bet you are waiting for something else right now, too. Christmas is really close. Sometimes waiting for that seems really long. Instead of making an Advent calendar, we have a poem for you to read with your parents every day from now until Christmas.

Read aloud the attached sheet.

You will also be given a baggie with four pieces of candy in it. For the next four weeks until Christmas, you are to find a friend each week that you can share a piece of candy with. Even sweeter, you can share Jesus with them. For four weeks you have four candies to give to four friends. Have your parents help you by praying with you.

Have children think of four people they might witness to. The friends could include adult family friends, relatives, or peers.

Then say:

We want the people who walk in darkness to see a bright light, Jesus. Remember: **many years passed and we forgot, but God is faithful, he did not.*

Closing Prayer:

Pray about the friends the children will get to share Jesus with during Advent.

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Many years passed and the people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.
Born as a baby in Bethlehem town,
The King was born with straw as his crown.

Many years have passed, and people have forgot;
But God ever faithful, he has not.
God comes into my heart to live and to stay.
He rules as the King of my life every day.

God fulfilled his promise—the Savior has come.
I need to share this news with everyone:
God's free gift of life is extended to you;
Simply trusting in Jesus is all you need do.

Every week until Christmas, I have good news to share,
About a loving Savior who will always be there.
Four weeks and four candies to give to four friends,
Telling the great news to whomever God sends.



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Dear Parent,

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, helps us remember that Jesus came as a baby. Jesus also comes and lives in our hearts today. He will come again in the future to take all believers home with him. To celebrate advent your child will have four pieces of candy, one for each week, to share with four separate friends. Your child is invited to share the candy and invite his or her friends to church or to share the love of Jesus with friends in some special way. In your family devotions, read the poem with your child. Pray that God will bless the love of Jesus that your child is sharing.

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“Waiting for the Good Things”

Puppet Presentation

Supplies needed to introduce the Advent season: wreath with three blue or purple candles and one pink candle, a white candle (Christ candle) in the center of the wreath; four addition candles with wax drip protectors for the volunteers

Mr. King: Today we will learn about waiting and how God’s people waited.

Pick four volunteers to come forward and hand each one an unlit candle from the Advent wreath. Light the Christ candle from the center of the Advent wreath. Tell the audience they need to remain quiet as the house lights are dimmed. Tell the participants that when they think a full minute has passed, they can light their candle from the center candle.

After a full minute—which will seem like forever in the quiet and dark—Mr. King reads Isaiah 9:2.

Mr. King: “The people who walk in darkness will see a bright light. The light will shine on those who live in the land of death’s shadow.”

House lights go up. Extinguish the candles and have the volunteers return to their seats.

Mr. King: That is how it was for the people in the Old Testament. They were like people walking in darkness. They waited a long time.

Remember this football we have been passing? Hold up football with cross on it. **God passed the promise of a Savior but sometimes the waiting got terribly long.**

Gordy: *(Interrupting.)* Mr. King! Mr. King! Come over here!

Mr. King: What is it, Gordy?

Gordy: I can see you’re playing games about waiting.

Mr. King: Well, we are teaching about waiting today. Waiting for good things.

Gordy: I have a game. Do you have a piece of candy?

Mr. King: Yes, right here.

Gordy: Okay. Put the candy on the ledge here between us.

Mr. King: All right.

Gordy: And let's see who can wait closest to five minutes before grabbing the candy.

Mr. King: I don't know, Gordy. Five minutes is a long time.

Gordy: Oh, come on! Let's play.

Mr. King: Okay. Will someone watch the clock for us? Let's see if we can wait five minutes. Are you ready? Set. Go.

After three seconds Gordy grabs the candy and ducks away. He returns after hiding the candy.

Gordy: I guess you win, Mr. King. I just couldn't wait five minutes.

Mr. King: Where is my candy?

Gordy: What candy? Game's over!

Mr. King: Gordy, you played a trick on me because you don't like to wait. Sometimes it is hard to wait.

Gordy: Yeah, it's really hard to wait until Christmas.

Mr. King: Yes, but when there are good things in the future, it is worth the wait. Did you know people waited hundreds of years for the best gift in the whole world?

Gordy: You mean they waited for super-sized candy bars?

Mr. King: No. They waited for the sending of God's Son Jesus. People waited for hundreds of years for Jesus to come.

Gordy: It must have felt like waiting for Christmas.

Mr. King: Maybe in some ways it did. Believe me, it was worth the wait. Watch today's Bible event and see how God passed the promise that he would send his Son Jesus. Jesus would be a light to the world.

“God Passed the Promise”

Dramatic Presentation

In advance, costume 10 kids with Bible head pieces and character name tags: Adam, Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Judah, David, Isaiah, and Mary. Have 10 chairs set up on the stage.

Divide the audience into two groups and explain that one group will read the first line of the refrain and the other the second line of the refrain after you read each verse of the poem. (You might practice this once before reading the poem.)

The poem should be shown on overhead or power point.

Before reading the poem, have the costumed characters enter and sit in the chairs on stage.

Hand the Pass the Promise football to the character (or set of characters) when the verse is read about their character, having them stand. At the appropriate time, pass the football to the next Bible character.

GOD PASSED THE PROMISE

(Large Group Presenter’s Version)

LEADER: ***Adam and Eve, God's crowning creation,
Sinned against God, and reaped separation.***

(Hand them the football.)

***But God in his mercy, kindness, and love
Gave them a promise that a Savior would come.***

(As you take the football, cue the characters to sit down. Continue in the same manner throughout each verse.)

ALL: Many years passed and people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.

LEADER: ***God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To a man called Abram, who longed for a son.***

(Hand Abram the football.)

***Under stars, God promised to make a great nation
Through which all people would find salvation.***

ALL: Many years passed and people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.

LEADER: ***God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To Isaac, Abraham and Sarah's beloved son.***
(Hand Isaac the football.)
To Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Esau were born,
(Cue Jacob and Esau to stand.)
And through them, two mighty nations were formed.

ALL: Many years passed and people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.

LEADER: ***God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To Jacob, not Esau as Isaac would have done.***
(Hand Jacob the football.)
Though a deceiver for most of his life
He received God's blessing after wrestling one night.

ALL: Many years passed and people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.

LEADER: ***God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To the man called Judah, one of Jacob's 12 sons.***
(Hand Judah the football.)
And this is the blessing that his father gave:
God's kingdom would be established, never to fade.

ALL: Many years passed and people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.

LEADER: ***God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To a simple shepherd boy and the king he would later become.***
(Hand David the football.)
David's reign was a shadow of the Savior waiting in the wings,
The one who would be called Lord of lords, King of kings.

ALL: Many years passed and the people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he did not.

LEADER: ***God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To a people in darkness, whose lives lay undone.***
(Hand Isaiah the football.)
Through a prophet named Isaiah, God's plan became clear
That the Savior God had promised soon would be here.

ALL: Many years passed and the people forgot;
But God, ever faithful, He did not.

LEADER: *God passed the promise that a Savior would come
To a girl named Mary, a descendant of the line of Judah.
(Hand Mary the football.)
It was an angel who announced that it was she
Who would bear the Savior that would set mankind free.*

ALL: And many years have passed, and people have forgot;
But God, ever faithful, he has not.

LEADER: (Pick up the football and hold it out to the audience.)
*God has fulfilled his promised and the Savior has come--
Not just for Abraham or Jacob, but for everyone.
And God's free gift of life is extended to you,
Simply trusting in Jesus is all you need do.*

(After the poem is read.)

Mr. King: It is hard for us to wait when we are looking forward to a celebration like Christmas. But the longer we wait and the more we prepare for it, the greater the celebration is.

It was hard for the people in the Old Testament to wait for a Savior. God was waiting and preparing the world for just the right time to send his Son. God was faithful to keep his promise. God passed the promise to his people.

God is preparing the world for just the right time for Jesus' second coming. While we are waiting, he wants us to prepare. He wants us to share his light with all those in darkness. Our Bible verse for today will help us to remember to share the good news with those who still don't know about Jesus. Isaiah 9:2 says, "*The people who walk in darkness will see a bright light.*" Who is the bright light?

*And many years have passed and people have forgot; but God, ever faithful, he did not!

“Waiting for the Good Things”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Wow, Mr. King. I think I get it. All these weeks we have been studying how God passed the promise of a Savior from Abraham in the Old Testament through his sons, and grandsons, and great-grandsons, and great-great grandsons, and...

Mr. King: **Yes, Gordy, this promise gets passed down to...**

Gordy: ...all the way to Mary and Joseph in the New Testament. The Savior was born.

Mr. King: **Through those hundreds and hundreds of years, this saying is true. **And many years have passed and people have forgot; but God, ever faithful, he did not!* God didn't forget his promise even if people did!**

Gordy: Well, I don't want to forget. But I do want to throw that football. Can I, Mr. King? Can I?

Mr. King: **Sure Gordy, as long as you remember that you can pass the promise of Jesus to someone else when you tell them Jesus is our Savior. Will you say a closing prayer for us?**

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for the wonderful promise of Jesus who came to be our Savior to save us from the consequences of our sins. Thank you for how you passed this promise through all the people in the Bible hundreds and hundreds of years ago, but you still give us this promise today. Help us to tell others about Jesus so we can pass this promise on to them, too. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GOD PASSED THE PROMISE

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Sinned against God, and reaped separation.
But God in his mercy, kindness, and love;
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