



Date: _____

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

Take Time for the King

Primary Scripture: Psalm 37:4, 7

Key Verse: Psalm 37:7a, "Surrender yourself to the LORD, and wait patiently for him."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Children today are busy moving from activity to activity. Often they anticipate with great excitement the future but fail to savor the opportunity at hand. Kids are already beginning to think about Christmas and Christmas gifts. Will they miss taking time right now for the King? Will they savor and delight in his presence? Today through God's word, prayer, and worship, the kids will slow down to wait patiently for the Lord. They will be happy with him.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave us access into the Father's presence through his death and resurrection in our behalf. Because of Jesus, we can know God and be happy with him.

Jesus in us: Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus dwells within each of us in deep and personal ways. As we delight in him, Jesus can fill our lives with more of himself.

Jesus through us: Christians never have power beyond the level of their intimacy with God. When we take time to delight ourselves in him, he works through our lives more effectively.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- crown

Use a king's crown as a visual aid when talking about the coming King.

Have you already started to think about Christmas coming? Maybe you have seen commercials on TV reminding you of getting presents. But Christmas means more than getting and giving presents. It means that Jesus, God's Son, came from heaven to earth. Think about that. Jesus is King of the whole universe and he came to earth, born as a baby, to give his life for us. He came to be our King. Now what shall we do to get ready to receive him as our King?

God's word says in Psalms 37:7, "...wait patiently for him." Let's play a game to practice waiting patiently. Many of you have played the "Quiet Game" before. It is a contest to see who can be the quietest the longest.

Play the game until someone makes a noise.

Is it hard for you to be quiet or to be still? Sometimes it's hard for me, too.

Today in our worship we want to slow down enough so we take time for the King. That's the same thing as waiting for him. We won't be as active as we often are. We will be still and quiet so we can hear what God wants to tell us in his word. We will tell God how much we love him. Let's practice that. Everyone sit back and close your eyes. Get completely still and quiet.

Read Psalm 37:4.

"Be happy with the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Let's practice being happy with the Lord. Let's think of God right now. He is our perfect Heavenly Father. As we think of him, let's think how good and wonderful he is.

List some characteristics of God.

And let's think of all he gives us.

List God's blessings.

Now let's be quiet. Let's even be quiet on the inside. Tell God how much you love him.

TIP: Children that like to cause distractions will naturally gravitate to each other. After a gentle reminder to be quiet, separate any kids that are having a hard time with self-control.

After a time of silence, whisper that now it is time to take time with the King by giving him praise.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *two adult actors to play disruptive kids*

Have two adults role-play as rambunctious kids in worship. As the Kids Church leader begins to talk again about being still before the Lord, the two adults pretend to be disruptive kids. Instead of listening to the leader, the actors pretend they are whispering

to each other, looking around, making faces, and poking each other. Refer to the actors as you say:

If you went through Kids Church this way, do you think you would get very much from God's word? (*Probably not.*) You wouldn't get much out of church either, would you? In fact, it would be hard to ever learn how to be happy with the Lord like our Bible verse tells us.

Jesus gave his life for us so we could have his forgiveness. Because of Jesus' forgiveness, we can be happy with the Lord. We can know his love and feel close to him. Let's pray to Jesus now to receive the power of the cross and the power of his forgiveness.

Take this time to confess the sin of not paying attention to God while in worship. Ask for his forgiveness.

Jesus gave his life for you so your sins are forgiven. Because of Jesus, you can know God the Father as your own Father. You can take time and be happy with him.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

I have a tricky question for you. Is God poor? Does he need our money so he can do good things here on earth? No. The Bible says that all of the earth belongs to him. He owns it all already. He asks that we give him money, not because he is poor and needs us to pay the bills for him. He wants us to give him money so we can say "Thank you, Lord. I love you." Then God uses our money to help others know him as well.

Even if you didn't bring money today to say thank you, you can still say thank you. God would love you to spend time with him and talk with him. After everyone has brought their offering forward, I want everyone to be very still and quiet. We will all offer God a minute of our time, close our eyes, and talk to him in our minds. He can hear all of our prayers, and he loves to listen to us tell him "thank you."



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Who Missed the Boat?

In this game, the presenter will ask the question:

Someone missed the secret boat. It left without him! Can you tell me who it is?

The first person who speaks any word out loud will be the person who missed the secret boat. (This is the secret, though.)

The kids are to guess who it is that missed the secret boat. The presenter, after hearing several guesses, will speak the person's name that said a word first. Going through this several times, the presenter can challenge the kids to pay close attention so they can figure out who missed the secret boat each time. When the secret is revealed, the presenter says:

In this game, you were so excited to guess who missed the boat that you may not have stopped long enough to listen or watch. Sometimes we might do the same with God and talk too much to him without stopping to listen to him. Too often we are busy and miss spending time with God. Let's take the time to stop and think about how wonderful the Lord is and delight ourselves in him.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Have a child read Psalm 37:4, "Be happy with the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

How do you become happy with the Lord? You spend special time thinking about him. You listen to what he says to you in the Bible. You feel his love for you. Then you worship God and tell him that you love him.

Have a child read Psalm 37:7, *“Surrender yourself to the LORD, and wait patiently for him.”*

How do you surrender yourself to the Lord? You tell God that you give your whole life to him. You tell him that you want to do what he wants you to do, not the bad things that you sometimes want to do.

How do you wait patiently for God? When you pray, expect God to work. It might not be right away. We wait for God to answer the way he wants and at the right time.

Application 1:

Supplies:

- *short story, “In His Presence” from Max Lucado’s Tell Me the Story (Crossway Books, 1992)*

Read *“In His Presence”* by Max Lucado. Before reading this story, have the kids find their own quiet place where they can relax and listen carefully to the story. After the story, the presenter can ask a few brief questions.

Who does the king in the story represent? (God.)

How did the one child become a child of the King? How was she different than her brothers and sisters?

How does God want us to spend our time? Does he want us to spend it trying to impress him? (He wants us to spend time with him.)

Application 2:

Let’s take time to listen and talk to Jesus. Let’s be happy in him and wait for him.

Give the following presentation to all the children. This is an imagination exercise in which the kids learn to delight themselves in the Lord. Make sure all kids are comfortable and, as much as possible, without distraction. Have them keep their eyes closed and imagine very carefully what you are saying.

Picture yourself on top of a beautiful hill on a bright sunny day. As you are standing on a path, someone is walking toward you. As this person gets closer, your heart beats faster for you realize this person is your very best friend. And here he comes up to you now. He is Jesus. His eyes sparkle with delight because He loves to be here

spending time with you. "Would you like to take a walk?" he suggests.

"Sure," you say and off you go.

As you walk down the path, Jesus points out the beautiful world around you. He says, "I made all of this for you. Notice the clouds...that bird singing there...the flowers bending in the breeze...the wind on your face..."

You say, "Thank you. It is great that you made everything. But there are some other things that I would like to thank you for." Tell him in your heart what those things are.

Tell Jesus in your mind right now, "One of my favorite things to do is..." *(Pause.)* "Thank you for letting me do it in a way that is pleasing to you."

Then you say, "I want to be your child. Tell me what it is you would like to change about me."

Listen. What is Jesus saying to you? *(Pause.)*

"Jesus, here are some things that I sometimes worry about. Would you help me with these things?" *(Pause.)*

"Jesus, I need your power to be more patient and kind. Here is how I would like to behave with my family." Tell Jesus what that looks like. "Here is how I would like to treat my friend..." *(Pause.)*

"Jesus, something I look forward to a whole lot is...Will you help me when I get to that event?" *(Pause.)*

As you are walking with Jesus, do you think of something that you would really like to do with him? Tell him about that now. *(Pause.)*

Jesus says, "I'm looking forward to spending lots of time with you and I'm well pleased with you because you trust in me."

Now walk on your path back to Kids Church. Look who has come with you. It's Jesus. He says, "I'm still here. I will be with you always."



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Who would share some things they talked about when they visited with Jesus?

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- crown

The Power of the Cross:

- two adult actors to play disruptive kids

Application 1:

- short story, “In His Presence” from Max Lucado’s *Tell Me the Story* (Crossway Books, 1992)—order from the web by linking to http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0891076794/sr=8-1/qid=1155040760/ref=sr_1_1/002-7436213-2441636?ie=UTF8

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