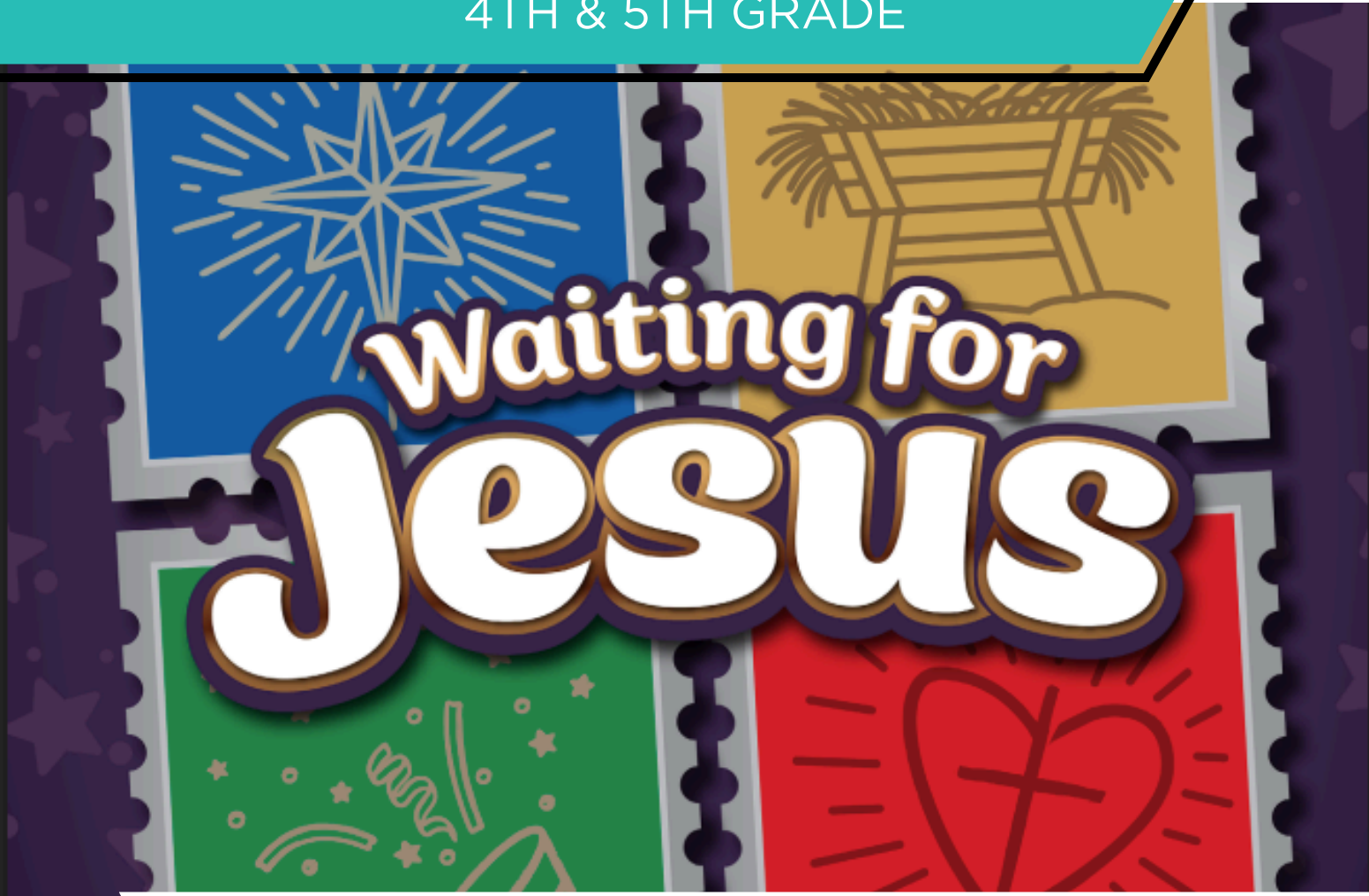


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



Waiting for Jesus

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

WAITING FOR JESUS: HOPE

ISAIAH 7; MATTHEW 1

GOD'S BIG STORY

The Bible is the big story of God loving and redeeming His people through His Son, Jesus. Even when God's people disobeyed, He loved them, cared for them, and promised them a hopeful future. Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises: He is the hope that God promised!

LEADER DEVO

*For the grace of God has appeared , bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

-Titus 2:11-14, (emphasis ours)

Remember when you were a kid eagerly waiting to open your Christmas presents? The adrenaline of excitement rushing through you, the torture of self-control you had to endure not to rip into the wrapping paper every time you walked past the tree? Then, after what felt like an eternity of waiting, you feel a rush of euphoria as you finally get to open your presents.

Now as an adult, I'm the one buying and wrapping presents, but I still feel that joy and excitement as I wait eagerly to see the faces of my nieces/nephew, young cousins, friends, etc. as they open their gifts from me. I look forward to seeing their excitement and hearing their laughter as they tear through the wrapping paper.

As we prepare for this advent series, I'm reminded how the Israelites had to wait for the first Christmas. Waiting to see the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior. For hundreds of years they waited and waited but in confident hope knew that God would keep His word. How exciting it must have been for those shepherds that night to hear that the wait was over!

Today, we have the gift of looking back and seeing what Jesus has already done. We put our faith in His life, death, and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sin. But even now, we are still waiting.

We wait now for Jesus to return and make the world perfect and new! Just as God's people 2,000 years ago held onto the hope of God's promise to send the Savior, we too have hope that God will keep His promise. We do not hope as the world does, wishing and doubting about what will be. Rather, we hope in full confidence and assurance that it will be done as God says.

Advent is a time to reflect and remember the gift that is the birth of Jesus Christ. This season, let it also be a reminder of the blessed hope we have—eagerly waiting for that day to come, in full and confident hope that it will.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is
over all that he has made.

Psalms 145:9



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

DEC 21

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

Especially for memorizing longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once. Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those five words memorized, add another five or so words.

LESSON

Many years before Jesus was born, God's people in Judah were scared and discouraged. They knew God promised King David that his children and grandchildren would rule forever as kings. And God promised that His chosen Messiah king would be David's descendent, from the tribe of Judah.

The Assyrian army was moving toward Judah and Judah's two neighboring countries had formed an alliance, or a team, and planned on killing Judah's leader, King Ahaz. The people's hope was fading and their hearts trembled. But God didn't want the people of Judah to be in despair. He wanted them to be confident and have a hopeful expectation that He would come through for them. God spoke to the people through a prophet named Isaiah, to give them a sign that God's promise would come true.

Through Isaiah, God told the people that a young, unmarried woman will give birth to a son and name him Immanuel. Immanuel means "Gods with us." This child who hadn't even been born yet would show God's people that He was with them and that He hadn't forgotten His promises.

Fast forward 700 years, and God's people were being threatened again and wondering if God would save them. It seemed like there would never be another king like God had promised to David. Still, some hoped that a Messiah would be born who could restore all the things in the world that seemed broken.

In a small village called Nazareth lived a carpenter named Joseph. Joseph was a descendant of King David and was engaged to a woman named Mary, who was expecting a baby! Not just any baby—God's Son! An angel from God appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him that the baby was from the Holy Spirit. He said that Mary was going to have a son, and that they should name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.

Joseph remembered God's message through Isaiah all those years ago, that a young, unmarried woman would give birth to a son, and He would be called Immanuel. The baby living inside Mary was the hope for all Judah.

The promise of Jesus was for more than just God's people who lived a long time ago—it's for us too! When we choose to follow Jesus, we can know confidently that we will live with God forever as His kids!

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

ICEBREAKERS

ACTIVITY: WISHING VS HOPING

Have kids pair up and give each pair a coin. Encourage them to take turns flipping it and each time they do say “I hope it lands on [heads/tails].” Once everyone has had a chance to flip the coin a few times, gather the group back together and get a ball. Ask kids what will happen if you drop the ball. Hold the ball as high as possible and drop it.

As a group, talk about how hope in Jesus is not like flipping a coin and wishing for it to land on a certain side. Instead, hope in Jesus is more like dropping the ball with a confidence that gravity will bring the ball down to the ground. Hope in Jesus is not chance or wishful thinking—it’s certain!

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) According to the world, how is the word “hope” usually used?
- 2) What do you think it means to hope in God? How is this different than the way the world uses the word “hope”?
- 3) Through the prophet Isaiah, God gave His people a sign that He would keep His promise to save them. What was that sign?
- 4) Why might God have chosen to remind God’s people to have hope?
- 5) How is Jesus our hope? (Think about the problem of sin and what Jesus did for us to save us from sin.)
- 6) Is there someone in your life in need of hope? How can you share the hope of Jesus with them this week?

PRAYER

Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!