**Leader Overview**



**Volume Overview**

**Navigate Hardship**

*Life is hard, even for believers. We all know it or discover it soon enough. Life tests our patience, our hope, and our sense of God’s presence. But we are not left hopeless in our challenges. God’s presence is more certain than even our hardships. Still, there are times in life that we need to be reminded that He is present. It’s in hardships that we learn to recognize it. We also learn to depend on God, to wait, and to look forward to His rescue.*

**Session Overview**

**Wait Patiently**

*In this* **Live** *session, kids will discover that although God always cares about the problems we face, we don’t always see Him answer our problems in the timing or manner that we might hope for. This drives us to continue to depend on God as we navigate through our hardships. Martha and Mary, Lazarus’s sisters, show us how to stay close to God and trust Him as we wait.*

**Bible Lesson**

Lazarus’s Family Deals with His Death

[John 11:1–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.1-7), [20–45](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.20-45)

**Faith Fact**

I can trust God while I’m waiting.

**Faith Verse**

[Psalm 34:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps34.19) (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

**Preparing for the Session**

**Leader Preparation Time: 20–25 Minutes**

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| ***You Will Need***  ***Large Group***   * *Bible* * *Worship songs (Song suggestions: “Nothing is Impossible” Lyric Video by Planetshakers; “Only Wanna Sing” Lyric Video by Hillsong Young & Free: “Trust” Lyric Video by Hillsong Young and Free, “Surrounded (Fight My Battles)” Lyric Video by Upper Room)* * *For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:*   *• Projector or TV*  *• Laptop*  *•* ***Faith Fact******Slide***  *•* ***Faith Verse Video*** *or* ***Slide***  *•* ***Bible Lesson Video***  *•* ***Teaching Point Slides 1–3***   * *Toilet paper rolls, two per group* * *Coach costume (whistle, clipboard, jacket, hat, etc.)*   ***Small Group***   * *Smartphone with stopwatch feature* * *Bibles for kids in the group to share* * *Small Group Faith Verse Review, two copies, one set per team* * *Plastic cups, ten per team* * *Small bean bag* * *Yarn* * *Scissors* * ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* * *Pencils or pens, one per kid* * *Smartphone with a stopwatch*   *To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [*BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready***  ***Large Group***   * *Download videos and slides if needed.* * *Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.* * *Read the Bible Lesson Scripture to prepare for Teaching Time.*   ***Small Group***   * *Print two copies of the* ***Small Group Faith Verse Review****, one set per team.* * *Cut apart the Faith Verse slips.* * *Set up ten cups in a row on the floor for each team. Place one Faith Verse slip under each cup.* * *Tie the bean bag to a long piece of yarn.* * *Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.*   *First time leading* Live *for Kids? Check out the* [*Facilitator Guide*](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

**Large Group**

**30 Minutes**

*See what’s needed at the beginning of the session.*

**Introduction**

Hello, friends! What an amazing day this is to be together. We’ll learn how we can make it through difficult times with God’s help. Raise your hand if you’ve ever been through something hard before. *(Group response)* Now, keep your hand up if you think it’s better to go through something hard with someone by your side. *(Group response)*

Exactly! If we have help when we face hardships, it’s a lot easier to make it through. Thankfully, God promises to be with us through every challenge that we face. Today, we’ll talk about how sometimes, even when we trust God, we need to be willing to be patient and wait for His help.

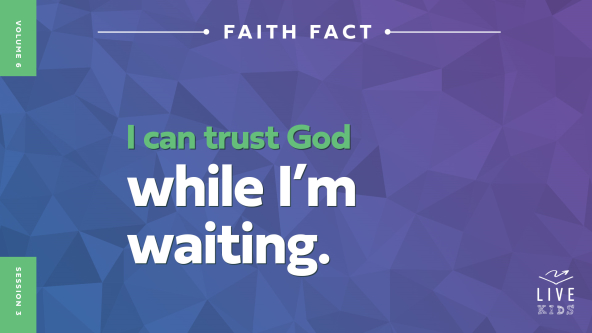
Does anyone here like to go out to eat? *(Group response)* It can be really fun. Sometimes, you even get to choose what you want from the menu all by yourself. At some restaurants, you tell the server what food you want, and you wait for them to bring it to you. Has anyone here ever waited a really long time for their food to be ready at a restaurant before? *(Group response)*

Waiting can be really hard, especially if you aren’t sure that what’s coming is what you’ve been waiting for. We usually don’t like to wait for good things, and it’s sometimes the same in our relationship with God. We know that we need to wait on Him, but we don’t always know exactly when we will get the help that God has promised to us.

**Faith Fact**

Waiting for good things from God reminds me of our Faith Fact for today: **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** In our Bible story, we’ll hear about some people who experienced something really crazy while they were waiting for God to help them.

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide.***



Most of us don’t like waiting, but we can grow a lot in our relationship with God while we wait on Him. Part of this waiting is trusting that God will do what needs to be done at the right time because He knows what we need and when we need it better than anyone. How many of you want to be better at trusting God? *(Group response)* Touch your pointer finger to your wrist like you have a watch and say the Faith Fact. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** Let’s say it one more time. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** That’s it!

**Game**

**Lazarus Mummy Wrap**

Who’s ready for a game? *(Group response)* Today, we’ll play the boys against the girls. I need three boys and three girls to play the game.

• *Choose six volunteers, three boys and three girls.*

Today’s Bible story is about three siblings—Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. Lazarus got sick and died. His sisters were very sad. During Bible times, when someone died, they often wrapped them up in cloths. You might imagine they looked a little like a mummy.

We’ll see who’s better at doing that—the boys or the girls. Each team will choose who will be Lazarus. Then, the other two team members will take a roll of toilet paper and carefully wrap their teammate up from head to toe. The winning team isn’t the one who finishes first. It’s the team who covers up Lazarus the best except for the eyes, nose, and mouth. When your team is done wrapping, shout out the Faith Fact together. Let’s play!

• *Give each team a roll of toilet paper and get them started.*

• *Have the rest of the kids cheer on their team.*

• *Choose the winner by who does the best job.*

Great job, everyone! Remember our volunteers look like that to remind us of Lazarus from our Bible story. Waiting in real life can be like this. We can feel tied up because we can’t control what’s happening to us. That’s when we need to remember our Faith Fact. Let’s say it together. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.**

**Worship**

Something that can help us make it through some tough waiting is worshipping God. Worship reminds us how faithful, trustworthy, and good God is. Sometimes, when we wait, we can be tempted to doubt that God is with us or that He remembers us. Worship reminds us of the truth. Who is ready to worship God by singing today? *(Group response)* Let’s sing and worship Him together.

• *Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the beginning of the session.*

**Bible Lesson**

It’s so great to worship God with you! Worshipping God can help us trust Him more when we are going through, or navigating, hard times. Remember our Faith Fact? **I can trust God while I’m waiting**. We’ll see what the Bible says about waiting for God to answer. Let’s pray first.

**Prayer**

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| *Dear God, thank You for caring about us more than we could ever know! We want to honor You, follow You, and trust You, even when it’s hard for us. Help us to see how that is possible, even when it seems difficult. In Jesus’ name. Amen* |

**Video Intro**

Just before we look at the Bible story, let’s watch this video.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video***.



**Bible Story**

**Lazarus’s Family Deals with His Death**

How many of you are like Isa and hate waiting for things? *(Group response)* A lot of people don’t like to wait. Today, we’ll hear about two sisters who wanted Jesus to come quickly when their brother, Lazarus. was sick. Let’s take a look at the Bible story Isa was talking about to find out more.

**Teaching Time**

Let’s set the stage for today’s story. Jesus had been teaching people and performing miracles of healing. He had gained a lot of attention for what He was doing. People who believed in Him were having their life changed. But some who didn’t believe in Him were trying to do everything they could think of to stop Jesus.

How do you think Jesus felt about the different ways people thought about Him? *(Allow responses.)* It must have been hard for Him and His disciples to hear that people didn’t believe who Jesus was and were actively trying to stop Him when He wanted to help others know God’s love.

Jesus had made many friends with the people He had helped. One of those friends, Lazarus, because extremely sick. Lazarus’s family knew how powerful Jesus was, so they sent for Him. What do you think they were thinking when they did this? *(Allow responses.)*

Jesus’ response to their invitation didn’t seem to make any sense. In fact, Jesus may have even hurt people’s feelings by waiting to go to the family. Have you ever had your feelings hurt by someone you cared about? *(Group response)* It can hurt a lot! What the people in our Bible story didn’t know is that their waiting was for a much bigger purpose. Remember that our Faith Fact today is **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** Let’s say that all together. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** Let’s find out what that has to do with our story.

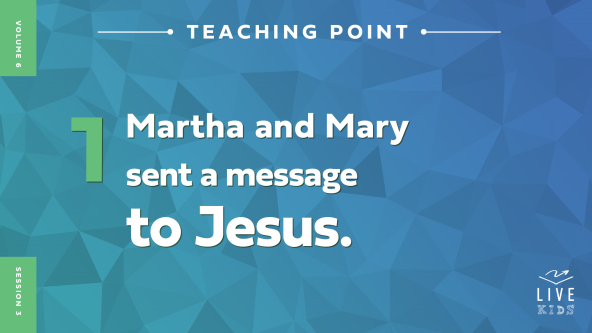
Grab your Bible or pull up a Bible app on your device. Turn to [John 11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11).

• *In order to keep Large Group time moving along, we recommend that the leader reads the Scripture portions aloud (*[*John 11:1–7*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.1-7)*,* [*20–45*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.20-45)*).*

• *Optional: Remind the kids to mark this place with a bookmark so they can read it on their own at home.*

**1. Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 1 Slide.***



• *Read* [*John 11:1–7*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.1-7).

Wait up one second! That doesn’t seem right. Normally in the Bible, when someone asked Jesus for help or healing, Jesus responded pretty quickly. But this time, when He heard about a friend who was fighting a serious sickness, Jesus waited two days before going to see His friend. This sounds off!

Martha and Mary loved their brother, and they knew Jesus could heal him. So how do you think they felt when they had to wait for Jesus to show up? *(Allow responses.)* I imagine that they were really hurt, confused, and even frustrated when Jesus didn’t come right away.

But Jesus knew something from the very beginning of Lazarus’s illness that the sisters didn’t know. Jesus even said to His disciples that Lazarus had just fallen asleep. What the disciples didn’t understand until Jesus explained this was that Lazarus had died while they waited.

Why do you think Jesus waited to make the trip to see Lazarus? *(Allow responses.)* Jesus said that this situation would be used to help the disciples really believe. I imagine that would be confusing for anyone to hear and understand who was waiting for Him to do something.

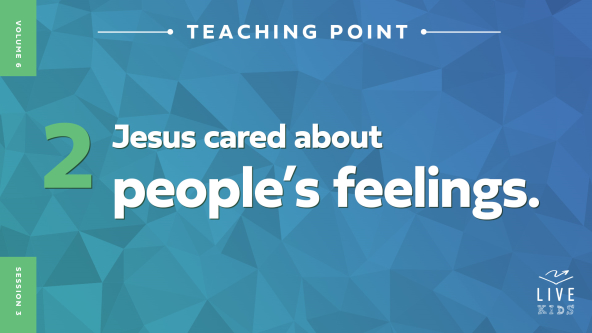
• *Put on the coach gear.*

This makes me think of a really important sports game. Let’s say you’re playing basketball, and that your team is not doing very well. What’s surprising is that you have the world’s best coach and the world’s best player on your team. But, that player is not playing. He’s sitting on the bench. If you were losing a game, what should the coach to do if the star player is still on the bench? *(Allow responses.)*

Right. The coach should put the star player in right away. That’s not what Jesus did. He could have gone to Lazarus right away, but Jesus knew there was a greater plan. Jesus knew what would lead the people to victory, even if it seemed like they were losing badly. Let’s see what happened when Jesus did make it to see Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.

**2. Jesus cared about people’s feelings.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 2 Slide.***



• *Read* [*John 11:20–37*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.20-37)*.*

This story is so intense! Jesus had told His disciples that Lazarus was asleep and He was going to wake up Lazarus. There was something more after that. When Jesus showed up, Lazarus’s sister Martha seemed to have some faith that God would give Jesus what He asked for, but she thought Lazarus would be raised from death when he went to heaven.

Now, Martha, Mary, and those who loved Lazarus were hurting a lot. It hurts a lot to lose someone we love. Jesus saw the people crying, hurting, and mourning for Lazarus.

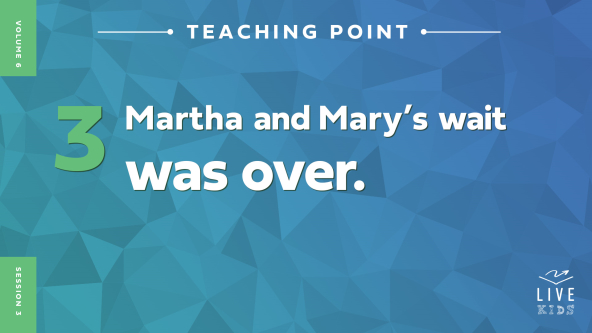
It would have been easy for Jesus to say, “Don’t feel bad, everyone! I can heal Lazarus, and he will come back to life, so don’t cry about it!” Do you think that would have helped anyone there? *(Group response)*

Maybe not. Instead, the hurting people were learning that God is the only One who could really help them, even in their pain and sadness. Just because we have peace by trusting in God, it doesn’t mean that waiting will be easy or painless. It’s okay for us to feel sad and even cry.

Some people who watched said, “Couldn’t Jesus have saved Lazarus?” What’s the answer? *(Group response)* Yes! He could have. Even though He could have healed Lazarus right away and even though He knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead, Jesus still followed God’s plan. Let’s see what happened next in the story.

**3. Martha and Mary’s wait was over.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 3 Slide.***



• *Read* [*John 11:38–45*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.38-45).

So, Lazarus was dead. Jesus didn’t get there in time to heal him. After some time mourning together, Jesus asked where the tomb of Lazarus was. Jesus shocked everyone when He told them to open the tomb. He was told that Lazarus had been dead for four days and the body would stink! That was crazy. What do you think Jesus’ disciples thought about that? *(Allow responses.)* After that much time passing, nobody would have had any hope for Lazarus.

Then, Jesus prayed to His Father God to hear His prayer and do a miracle so that everyone there would know that Jesus was sent by Him.

Why do you think it was so important that other people heard Jesus pray and saw Jesus do this miracle? *(Allow responses.)* Jesus knew that if He did this, then more people would know that He was who He said He was—God’s Son.

Jesus cared about Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. He really, truly did. He cares about you and me, too. He cares about each person in the whole world. He knew that bringing Lazarus back from the dead would be powerful, even if it meant that Lazarus had to die and his family and friends would have hurting hearts for a time. Jesus knew this miracle would help everyone know that He was sent by God.

Remember our basketball coach and star player? They are the best in the world at their roles. If they were trying to prove that they were truly the best, what would show that better: the star player helping the team get a big lead and holding it the whole game or the star player stepping in when everything seemed hopeless and making the greatest comeback of all time? *(Allow responses.)*

Jesus could have healed Lazarus right away, but it’s possible that not as many people would have heard about it. Jesus knew that He wanted to save even more people than just Lazarus. By letting Lazarus die and be in the tomb for a few days, God’s power was shown to even more people so they had a chance to believe in Jesus. Isn’t that worth waiting for? *(Group response)*

Waiting is hard, and it can be painful. Maratha and Mary learned that the hard way. They also learned that while they waited, God was doing far more than they could have ever imagined. People like us are still talking about them and all God did because they waited on Him. Remember our Faith Fact today? **I can trust God while I’m waiting**. Let’s choose to do that like Martha and Mary did.

**Prayer and Response**

*Consider playing a worship song softly in the background while kids pray.*

God has not forgotten you. He is not wanting you to hurt or wonder where He is, but He does want the entire world to know His love. Sometimes our waiting is used by God to build our faith. Sometimes it’s to show even more of His power to others. When we wait, we need to ask God for help to get us through the hard time with trust, peace, and confidence in Him, even in the middle of our confusion.

Remember our coach and star player? What part of that incredible game are you in? Do you feel like you’re losing and waiting for God to show up? Are you winning and celebrating the awesomeness of God?

If you feel like you’re losing, let’s pray and ask God to help you trust that He will do a miracle in His perfect timing. If you’re winning, let’s ask God to use you to share that victory with others so that more people will trust Him to be their Coach for their whole life. First, let’s pray quietly on our own. Then, we’ll pray together.

• *Allow time for prayer response.*

**Prayer**

*Optional: Have the kids repeat phrases of the prayer after you.*

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| *Dear God, thank You for being a Coach I can trust. Help me to know that You will meet my needs in Your perfect timing no matter what I’m facing. Help me to share Your stories of victory so that others can trust You and believe in Your power. In Jesus’ name. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse**

Our Faith Verse reminds us that God comes to rescue us every time. We can always trust that He is with us.

• *Play* ***Faith Verse Video***.



[Psalm 34:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps34.19) (NLT)

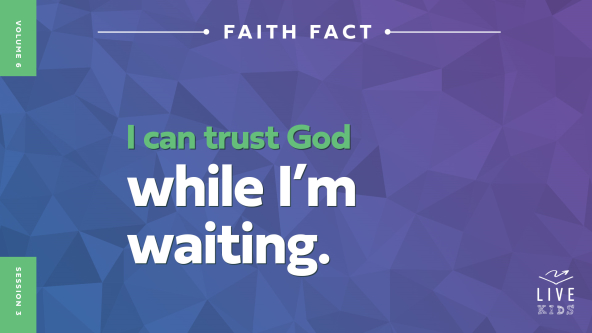
The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

Let’s say that verse together again, all at once! *(Group response)* Great work.

**Faith Fact**

Before we go to our small groups, let’s review our Faith Fact again. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.



Let’s say that Faith Fact together. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** Point at an imaginary watch on your wrist. Let’s say it again: **I can trust God while I’m waiting.**

• *Dismiss kids to Small Group time or to go home if your group time ends here.*

**Small Group**

**30 Minutes**

*This section can be done in conjunction with the large group or on its own if you do small groups with your kids. During Small Group time, the goal is to connect the kids with the Word of God and to each other. All activities are led by the small group leader.*

**Group Connection**

**Im-Perfect Timing**

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| ***You Will Need***   * *Smartphone with stopwatch feature*   *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

Today, we talked about trusting God’s perfect timing. We need to understand that it’s probably not going to work out exactly the way we think it needs to every time.

Waiting for God’s perfect timing can be really challenging. We never quite know when He will answer our prayers. Today, we’ll play a game where we see who can tell me to stop the stopwatch the closest to 10 seconds exactly! When it’s your turn, you’ll tell me to go and then stop when you think it’s been ten seconds. After you stop the clock, I’ll give you your time. Then, you’ll answer this question: What’s one thing you are waiting for or hoping for God to do?

• *Give each kid a turn at calling out the time.*

It’s impossible for us to know the exact time when something will happen or even what should happen sometimes. But, we can trust that God’s timing is perfect. He will give us exactly what we need, even if it’s not what we’re hoping for. We can have trust and confidence that God will do what needs to happen when it needs to happen.

**Bible Lesson Recap**

• *If small group activities are not immediately following large group time, you may want to read the Bible story passage before the discussion.*

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| ***You Will Need***   * *Bibles for kids in the group to share*   *No prep needed for this activity.* |

**Bible Story Review: Lazarus’s Family Deals with His Death** [**John 11:1–7**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.1-7)**,** [**20–45**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.20-45)**.**

What was the most interesting thing in the Bible story about Lazarus, Martha, and Mary? *(Allow responses.)* Those are great answers! To review, Lazarus got very sick. The sisters sent Jesus a message, but He waited to go and see Lazarus to heal him. Lazarus died, but Jesus raised him from death to show God’s power.

What are some big things we can learn from this story? *(Allow responses.)* One thing we can know for sure is that we can trust God to take care of us at the right time. Even if it doesn’t seem like what we want or how we think it should be, we can have peace that we are led and loved by our powerful God.

• *Give each kid a Bible and read the Bible story together.*

**Group Discussion**

*Feel free to use all or just a few questions as a jumping-off place for good discussion. Questions marked with \* are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group. Typically, older kids will be able to dive a little deeper than younger ones.*

**Questions**

Did Jesus know Lazarus or was Lazarus a stranger to Jesus?

What was Jesus asked to do? Why?

\* Why did Jesus wait to go see Lazarus?

How do you imagine Martha and Mary felt about Jesus arriving after Lazarus had died?

What ended up happening to Lazarus?

\* When have you seen God’s timing work out for the best, even if it was different from what you wanted?

\* Has God’s timing ever disappointed you? If so, what happened?

\* What can you do the next time you’re waiting on God for something?

\* How can you trust God more this week?

**Live It**

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact today is **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** This story about Martha and Mary showed us that God has everything in His hands no matter what we think He will or won’t do. We can trust God while we wait. It can be really hard, and we might even have some sad or angry feelings. But, God will help us get through those things.

**Challenge**

Here’s our challenge for the week. Waiting on God can be really difficult. When we remember how good God is and when we spend time with Him, we can build trust with God and have more of His peace during tough times. Three awesome things we can do to connect with God are to pray, read the Bible, and worship.

I want you to pick one of those things and think about a time that would be good for you to practice it. Let’s share which one we want to try to do this week and when we will do it. *(Allow responses.)*

**Prayer**

*Finish group discussion by sharing prayer requests and praise reports. Keep track of your small group’s prayer requests and review them each time you meet.*

• *Have kids share and pray for each other’s prayer requests.*

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| *Dear God, thank You for having the perfect timing, even though it may be hard for us to see it sometimes. Help us to trust You and to have peace whenever we are waiting for You to move. In Jesus’ name. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse Review**

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| ***You Will Need***   * ***Small Group Faith Verse Review****, two copies, one set per team* * *Plastic cups, ten per team* * *Small bean bag* * *Yarn* * *Scissors*   ***Getting Ready***   * *Print two copies of the* ***Small Group Faith Verse Review****, one set per team.* * *Cut apart the Faith Verse slips.* * *Set up ten cups in a row on the floor for each team. Place one Faith Verse slip under each cup.* * *Tie the bean bag to a long piece of yarn.* |

Our Faith Verse is [Psalm 34:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps34.19). God wants us to trust that He is with us when we face troubles in our life. Let’s review the verse together.

• *Show* ***Faith Verse Video***.



[Psalm 34:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps34.19) (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

When we trust that God is with us, our troubles are easier to face than they would ever be on our own. Let’s say our Faith Verse as a group a couple of more times. Try to memorize it as best as you can because you will need to know it for the Faith Verse game.

• *Say the verse as a group a couple of times.*

**Faith Verse Fun**

**Faith Verse Knock Down**

Today, we’ll play a game that will help us practice our Faith Verse. Our verse talks about how we can trust God to help us in the hardest times. Here’s how the game works. We’ll divide into two teams. Each team will have ten cups, and each cup will have a section of the Faith Verse under it. Each team will take the bean bag on the string and try to knock over the cups for their team. When you knock a cup down, run to the cup and take the slip with the Faith Verse words back to your team.

As your teammates continue to knock cups down, put the Faith Verse words in the correct order. The first team to properly sort out the entire verse will be the win-ner.

• *Play the game and determine the winning team.*

• *Play again if you have time.*

Wow, everyone! Great job! Knowing that God is with us anytime and anywhere makes it much easier to trust Him, even if we can’t see Him.

**Activity Page**

**Timed Challenges**

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| ***You Will Need***   * ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* * *Pencils or pens, one per kid* * *Phone with a stopwatch*   ***Getting Read****y*   * *Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.* |

Our Faith Fact is **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** God has the perfect timing, and He will see us through challenging times and situations that don’t make sense to us.

• *Hand out a copy of the* ***Small Group Activity Page*** *and a pencil to each kid.*

Today, our Activity Page is a list of challenges. Trusting God while we wait takes endurance. We’ll see who can do each of these activities the longest. Let’s have fun doing these challenges together.

• *Complete each challenge. Possibly have kids pair up and do the activities twice if you need someone to watch everyone carefully.*

• *Have kids record their time or score for each activity.*

**Dismissal**

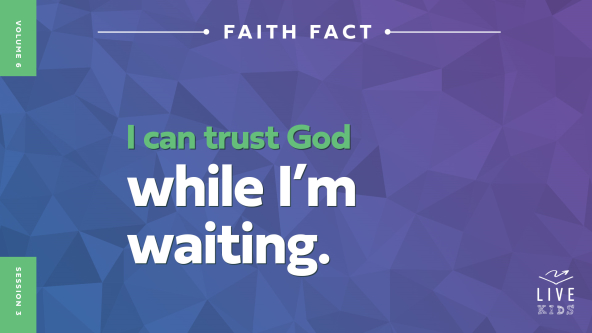
Believing in Jesus doesn’t mean that our life will be easy and won’t have any problems. That’s what our Faith Verse says. Remember that God wants us to trust that He will lead us through the hard times we face.

**Prayer**

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| *Dear God, please help us to trust Your timing. Help us to believe that You will act in at the right moment whether it feels early, on time, or late to us. You will do exactly the work You want to do. We can trust You’ll never leave us alone. In Jesus’ name. Amen.* |

**Faith Fact Recap**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide***.



Remember that God doesn’t just want to help others in their hard times. He wants to help you. Think about the Faith Fact. Let’s say it together. **I can trust God while I’m waiting.** I’m so glad you came today. I can’t wait to see you next time**.**

• *Send home the* ***Small Group******Activity Page.***

• *Remind parents that there are* ***Family Devotions*** *available on the app to do with their kid.*

• *Tell everyone the date and time for the next session.*