



Waiting For A Saviour



THE MISSION AIM

God teaches us to wait in hope for His Son.



KEY VERSE

Romans 8:25: "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Pots or Styrofoam cups for use in Field Mission Project (see Mission Project)
- Permanent markers for colouring on the pots; stickers if desired

Directions

SAY: Welcome! We have an exciting few weeks planned as we prepare for Christmas. We'll be using some pots later in our time together so we thought we'd start off giving you a chance to decorate them. Choose some markers or stickers or both and decorate away.

DO: As they are working ask the recruits some questions about the Christmas holidays (be sensitive to your recruits in terms of their history etc.): What are you looking forward to? What are you not looking forward to? What is the best gift you have ever received? If you could give any gift at all, what would you give? What has been the hardest thing you have waited for?

AND/OR

DO: Play the "waiting number game". The idea is to get the recruits to count as high as possible as a team. They start at one, and then wait for another recruit to say two and so on to get as high as possible. If more than one person says a number at the same time then the group starts again at one.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – The Christmas Promise Episode 1: Waiting for A Saviour"

Play "The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 1 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have Christmas-Episode_1-Waiting_For_A_Saviour.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Paper traffic light
- Have a beautifully wrapped gift filled with something your kids will view as a treat (small gifts from the dollar store, cupcakes, pencils and erasers, etc.)
- Have Romans 8:25–written on it clearly for the recruits to see (“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” Romans 8:25)



NOTE Squad Leader if you only have a few recruits, play “pass the parcel” instead of frozen tag during this lesson. If you do this you will need a parcel that is layered in wrapping paper and a music player to play music.



Mission Assignment

DO: Display the beautifully wrapped gift so that the recruits can clearly see it.

SAY: Before we get started, let’s play a game to get us moving a little. How about a quick game of frozen tag? If you get tagged, put your arms out and wait until someone runs under them so you can be off again.

DO: Play for about five minutes.

SAY: That was fun! But we’d better stop waiting around or we’ll never get through our missions. Let’s go for it...drum roll for mission # 1 (reading mission card from satellite uplink) “Discuss what it means to wait and how it feels to wait for what feels like forever.”

SAY: It’s clear that Simon is having trouble waiting for his online gift to arrive, that Alexey is frustrated about waiting to be in the band, that some of you found it so hard to wait to be freed in the tag game and that those waiting for Jesus to come found it really difficult. Take a moment to think for yourself, “What are some things that you find really hard to wait for?” I’m sure it’s not to find out what’s in the gift box over there, is it?

SAY: Now take a minute to share your ideas with someone. (*Waiting in line to buy your favourite treat, waiting for your birthday, waiting for Christmas, waiting to go on a trip, waiting for summer holidays, waiting for the end of the holidays, waiting to get out for recess or for the day to end, waiting to find out what is in that gift over there*)

DO: Give the recruits a moment to think and talk, making sure that everyone has an idea.

SAY: Okay, keep those ideas in your head. By the way, does anyone want to know what’s in the gift box over there? Too bad! You’ll just have to wait!

DO: Divide the recruits into 2 teams (even if they’re very small teams) and have them stand across from each other. Put the paper traffic light in between both teams.

SAY: Which colour on the traffic light reminds us to “wait”? (*Yellow*)

DO: Wait for a response.

SAY: When I say “go” the first person in each line is going to race to the yellow light. Whoever gets there first will stomp on it and say one thing that you find hard to wait for. That person



wins a point for their team. The second person needs to wait until I say “go” before they go. By the way, when you stomp on the light your ideas will be sent to the team so they’ll know what we’re thinking.

DO: Make sure that both people racing to the light get to share their ideas.

SAY: You certainly have had experience waiting. What does it feel like to wait?

DO: Give the recruits a chance to share some of their ideas. (Frustrating, builds up excitement, sometimes the waiting is even more fun than the actual event, exciting, hopeful, fun, scary, disappointing)

SAY: Wow, we have a variety of experiences and feelings when we wait for something, but I can’t imagine what it must have been like to be the Israelites. They were waiting for hundreds of years for Jesus to come, for a Saviour but He didn’t show up at all when they were expecting Him. They were desperate for someone to come to help them, to get them out of some of their tough spots, to look after them, to fight for them when it felt like no one liked them. But it seemed as if no one was ever coming. Do you think they were frustrated? Do you think they kept on hoping that the Messiah, God’s promises one, would come? It must have felt like a forever wait. Speaking of waiting, I can’t wait to find out if Simon got his gift delivered. Let’s get back to the team and find out. Oh before we do, does anyone want to know what’s in the gift over there? Too bad! I’m not telling!



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play “The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 1 (2/4)”. Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Create a “time machine” in your room that recruits go through (put a large blanket over a table that they can crawl through to get to the other side OR have a row of chairs covered up that they sneak through); Feel free to be creative
- Copies “Time Machine Role Play” cut up to share among recruits/leaders (see attachment page 8)





Mission Assignment

DO: Have two or three recruits and a leader move to the “other side” of the time machine and give them answers from the script about what it was like waiting for Jesus to come.

SAY: As Christie said, Christmas is such an exciting time, for us. We know Jesus came and that He saves us from our sins. But what about the Jews? What were they expecting? Why were they waiting for a Messiah? Mmm, some good questions. Maybe we should start on our mission. Drum roll please... (Read mission card from satellite uplink) “Find out why the Jews were waiting for the Messiah and what they were expecting from Him.”

SAY: This is perfect. We just so happen to have the time machine working. We can travel back to Bible times, and find out what it was like for the Jews, waiting for the Messiah. I believe we’ll be meeting Isaac (or Mary) when we get there and perhaps even a few of their friends. So be sure to sit quietly in a circle when you get there.

DO: Have recruits go through the time machine and sit in a circle on the other side. If you have extra leaders have someone flash the lights on and off as recruits travel through the machine. Also ensure there is a leader (Isaac or Mary) at the other end or that you go first to direct recruits to sit down quietly on the other side.

SAY (Isaac or Mary): It is so wonderful to have you here. I’ve been told that you are on a mission. A mission to discover what life was like while people were waiting for their Messiah. Well I hope we can help.

SAY: We have some questions for you. Perhaps some of you could answer them for us.

DO: Turn to the Role Play Script and have either recruits or leaders read the questions one at a time.

SAY: I guess it’s time we got back to the present. Let’s step back through the time machine.

DO: Get the recruits to go back through the time machine. You could potentially have the lights flashing again if possible.

SAY: That was an adventure. I can’t believe the time machine actually worked for us! How fun! I guess we’re not the only ones who find it hard to wait. I wonder if Simon is still waiting. Let’s head back to the team and find out.



Squad leader, if you have just have 2 or 3 recruits, “SNAP” your fingers to get the kids to the past and encourage them to pretend they are living in the past. You can divide up the template of “Time Machine Role Play” between the recruits giving them the answers while a leader has the questions.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play “The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 1 (3/4)”. Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.





Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- A quarter sheet of 8 ½ X 11 paper with the key verse written on one side (Romans 8:25– “But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”) for each recruit
- Tape
- Straw or popsicle stick for each recruit
- Pencils/pencil crayons
- Styrofoam cups or terra cotta pots that can be written on or drawn on, seeds, soil, water; rags available for clean up; newspapers to put down on tables and floors to minimize clean up

Mission Project

SAY: I sure don't wait well. Michael has challenged us to think about how well we wait. Do we wait impatiently, waiting for the next event, shaking all of our presents before we open them, complaining? Or do we wait patiently, hoping and trusting? Let's take some time to think about how we wait as we go on to Mission #3. Drum roll please, (read mission card from satellite uplink) "Check out today's key verse. What does it suggest we do while we wait? Think of ways you can put this into action."

DO: Bring the box over and read the key verse together (Romans 8:25).

SAY: Waiting is one thing. Waiting patiently, well that's another. Let's spend some time thinking about what we can do as we wait for Christmas. I find that waiting is so much easier when I'm thinking about and doing things for others. So, to prepare us for our next activity, I'd like you to talk about things that you could do for others or for God during this Christmas season. For example, you could write a letter to someone who is sad or lonely or clean up your room without being asked or write a poem to God. What are some other things that you could do?

DO: Create a list together that the recruits can refer to later. (set the table for supper; share a toy; read a story to your brother /sister; help on a Christmas kettle; serve at a Christmas meal; take out the garbage; write a prayer to God and thank Him for all that He's done; create a song about God)

SAY: What a great list this is.

DO: Hand out the papers with the key verse written on them.

SAY: On the back of the page with the key verse, write or draw at least seven things that you could do this week to help you wait patiently. Now, stick your piece of paper to this popsicle stick/straw to create a flag.

DO: Give the recruits a chance to finish up. If some are waiting have them decorate their flag or help others.

SAY: One of the things that keeps me waiting is my garden. Has anyone ever planted a seed



and then had to wait for it to grow? It's tough to wait for it! So, to help us as we wait, we are going to plant some seeds this week and hope that in the next few weeks they will grow.

DO: Give the recruits a chance to plant a seed, water it a little and place their flag in their soil to remind them that waiting is good and brings amazing results.

SAY: Now turn to the back of your flag where Romans 8:25 is written. Let's read this verse together.

DO: Read together, "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

SAY: Since we believe that Jesus came to earth as a baby and since we know that He died for our sins, we have hope. We know that He can do everything, even forgive us for our sins. So as we wait for baby Jesus this Christmas, may we spend our time thinking of Him, of what He did for us and of what we can do for Him or others.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "The Christmas Promise (S2) Episode 1 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- Candle
- Matches (or flashlight)

Directions

SAY: We wait! We wait for Christmas. Waiting can be tough. Just as the seeds need to be buried in the dark to grow, we sometimes need to sit, to be still and to listen to what God is saying to our hearts. We are going to pray in the dark today. As we pray, I want you to hold your plant and to be silent. As you sit silently, think about Jesus. Think about how He came to earth, how He loves you, how He wants you to know Him more and how he wants you to help others. Ask Him to help you to be patient as you wait for Christmas.

DO: Light a candle (or turn on a flashlight) and turn out the lights. Give the recruits a moment to be silent.

SAY: Now that you have focused on Jesus, spend a moment thinking about what you will do this week to care for others. Think of the list you have created and pray that God will help you do the things that you have written there.

DO: Give the recruits another moment to be silent. Pray aloud over them.

SAY: Amen!



SAY: Thanks for taking the time to wait, to be still. I know that's difficult. Speaking of difficult, you've waited all night to see what our gift is. Anyone want to see what's inside? Let's do it! I'm going to peel back the paper very carefully.

DO: Hand out the treats. Enjoy them together before heading out.

SAY: Have a great week and remember...never lose hope...wait patiently.

NOTES:



Time Machine Role Play

Question 1 (Could be a recruit who has this script ahead of time and can read it)

It seems that you know from the Scriptures that a Messiah will come. What are you expecting?

Answers (cut out for kids/leaders to use in answer to the questions; they should be answered in order)

Answer 1.1: As some of you might know, we were taken out of our land and sent off to nations around us where we were treated pretty badly. But our Scriptures said that we would be brought back to Jerusalem and would have one king over us. That we would be saved! We will have a knight in shining armour come to rescue us. He will take care of us and give us all that we need. I just know it!

Answer 1.2: Yes, he'll be a great leader like Moses and will bring us back to the land that was promised us.

Answer 1.3: The Messiah will not only return us to our land but we will live there with our kids and they will live there with their kids...we will stay there forever and no one will harm or destroy us again.

Answer 1.4: The Messiah will come and save us from the Roman rulers and everyone who has been nasty to us. We will have a powerful military leader who will fight against all of our enemies and take us away on his white horse. We can't wait.

Question 2

What has it been like waiting for the Messiah?

Answers (cut out for kids/leaders to use in answer to the questions; they should be answered in order)

Answer 2.1: Oh my goodness, it's been so hard. We so desperately need a mighty warrior to come and rescue us. It's so frustrating. But I'm sure He's going to come.

Answer 2.2: Waiting...such a long process. We think He's just around the corner, we figure it can't get any worse than it is. When he comes the Romans won't treat us like garbage anymore. Why hasn't he come yet? What's with that?

Answer 2.3: I've been waiting to see my friends forever. We were separated when we were sent out of Jerusalem. I'm sure that the Messiah will bring us all back together again but I just can't be sure...I'm beginning to lose hope.