

# Stop, Look, And Listen - Waiting for Jesus

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***This lesson will help children understand the importance of being ready while waiting for Jesus' return. They will also learn what it means to be patient.***

*by Kristy Thornton*

## TOPICS

Courage, Following Jesus, Jesus, Patience

## AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Stop, Look, Listen (Activity) [page 3](#)

## BIBLE VERSE (7 minutes)

**"Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord." Psalm 27:14 NLT**

Help the children memorize this verse by using motion and repetition. Read the verse several times. Then, assign hand motions as you talk about each phrase.

**Wait patiently for the Lord:** Put out your hand out as if to signal for someone to stop. Explain how we need to stop and patiently wait for our Lord to show us His purpose in our lives.

**Be brave and courageous:** Put your arms up showing your muscles. Explain how we need to be strong and courageous to follow Jesus no matter what.

**Yes, wait patiently for the Lord:** Again, put out your hand to signal for someone to stop. Explain how the Lord's timing is always perfect, but sometimes we get impatient. We must be willing to wait.

## Psalm 27:14

Have the children repeat the verse three more times using the hand motions.

## BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the Bible passage. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

### Introduction:

Have any of you had a babysitter come over when your parents went out for the night? Tell me how you felt when your parents left. Did you try to be on your best behavior? How did you feel when you realized your parents were coming home any minute? Were you anticipating their arrival? *(Allow children to discuss their feelings.)*

Those are the same feelings that we need to have when waiting for Jesus to come back. We need to try to be on our best behavior and anticipate His return. Through today's Bible story, we will learn how important it is to stop and wait for Jesus' return. Jesus left earth and is right now with God in Heaven, but He is coming back. However, no one knows when. That means we need to be watching, waiting, and patiently expecting His return. Let's read the example Jesus gave to us about how we need to be ready for Him.

## Read Luke 12:35-40 (Be Ready)

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who were the men waiting for? *(Their master.)*
2. What did the men need to keep burning for when their master returned? *(Lamps.)*
3. What were the servants supposed to do while waiting for their master to get home? *(Watch and be ready to open the door for him as soon as he arrived.)*
4. Are we the servant or the master? *(The servant.)*
5. Who does the master represent? *(Jesus.)*
6. Will we know when Jesus is coming? *(No, He will come at an hour when we do not expect Him.)*
7. Why is it important for us to be ready while waiting and watching for Jesus to return? *(Because He will come at an hour when we do not expect Him.)*
8. What are some ways we can get ready for when Jesus returns? *(Learn more about Him, attend Sunday school, stop doing things that are not nice, etc.)*

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## **FUN TIME (15 minutes)**

Dressed and Ready (Game) [page 4](#)

## **ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 minutes)**

I Am Ready (Craft) [page 5](#)

## **CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)**

Verse Crossing (Activity) [page 6](#)

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## STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN

*A coloring activity using safety tips for crossing the street to help children learn how to stop, look, and listen for Jesus.*

*by Kristy Thornton*

### TOPICS:

Following Jesus, Listening, Patience

### MATERIALS:

Coloring Page [PDF] [page 7](#)  
Crayons or colored markers

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class, print copies of the coloring page so you have one for each child. Be sure to have red crayons or markers so the children can correctly color the stop sign.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Write three words on the board: STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN. Then give the children a coloring page and allow them time to color. After they finish, discuss the familiar safety tips of stop, look, and listen before crossing the street. Then, explain how we should also stop, look, and listen for Jesus.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

When you are walking across the street, what are some of the safety tips your parents tell you to do before you cross the street? *(Allow students to respond.)*

Those were very good answers. There are three basic rules when crossing the street. They are stop, look and listen. (Refer to the board.)

First, you stop and wait for the street to be clear. Then, you look both ways to make sure no more cars are coming. Finally, you listen for the sound of a car just in case you can't see one.

Say the safety tips with me: Stop, look, and listen. Stopping, looking, and listening are also things we should do as Christians. We should, stop, look and listen for Jesus. We need to stop and wait patiently for His return, we must watch for Him and be ready, and we must listen for Jesus so we can follow Him as Lord.



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## DRESSED AND READY

*Children quickly get dressed to show how they can listen and be ready for when Jesus returns.*

By Kristy Thornton

### TOPICS:

Following Jesus, Listening, Preparedness

### MATERIALS:

Two large T-shirts, Two large pairs of socks  
Two large pairs of shoes or boots, Two flashlights

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes



### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Divide the children into two teams. Select one child from each team to be the master and one child from each team to be the servant who needs to get ready for when the master returns. You will have both masters leave the room, and then count to 20 with the help of an adult volunteer.

Meanwhile, the servant from each team must get dressed and ready by putting on a shirt (over his or her existing clothes), a pair of socks, a pair of shoes, and then turn on the flashlight. This needs to be done before the master comes back into the room. The other team members should help the servant in any way they can.

After both masters count to 20, they will knock at the door, and then wait five more seconds before coming in. This means when the servants of each team hear the knock, they have just five more seconds to finish the task of getting ready.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Divide Jesus said, "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him." (Luke 12:35-36)

We are going to play a game to show how a servant needs to be ready for when his or her master comes home and knocks at the door. We need to get into two teams. I will pick one person from each team to be the master, and one person from each team to be the servant. The master will step outside, pretending to leave for a wedding, and when I say, "GO," you will have 20 seconds to help the servant of your team get dressed before the master comes home.

The servant needs to put on a shirt, a pair of socks, and shoes. Also, the servant needs to be holding a flashlight that is turned on. If the servant is completely ready when the master comes back into the room, that team gets 100 points!

### Discussion Questions:

1. In our game, we had a master and a servant. Whom does the master represent? (*Jesus coming back.*)
2. Whom does the servant represent? (*Us, needing to be ready.*)
3. What can we do to be ready? (*We can make sure we are living Godly lives and putting God and others first. We can pray, read our bible, worship Him, fellowship with other Christian, and love God.*)
4. How can we be watching for Jesus? (*By being alert and by knowing what the Bible says about Jesus.*)
5. As team members helped the servant get dressed, what people can help us prepare for the return of Jesus? (*Parents, pastors, teachers, friends, etc.*)

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## I AM READY

*Children make a door hanger to help them remember to be waiting, watching, and ready for when the Lord returns.*

*by Kristy Thornton*

### TOPICS:

Choices, Following Jesus, Patience, Prayer

### MATERIALS:

Medium to Heavy card stock or  
Colored construction paper  
Door hanger template [PDF] [page 8](#)  
Sticker page [PDF] [page 9](#)  
Scissors, glue  
Crayons or markers (optional)

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



### PREPARATION:

Before class, create enough blank door hangers to give to each child. You can print the template onto medium to heavy card stock, or use it to trace around colored construction paper. Cut out each door hanger. Also, print enough copies of the sticker page to give one to each child. The children will cut out the stickers and glue them onto their door hanger.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child a blank door hanger and a sticker page. Have each child cut out the five stickers around the dotted lines and then glue them onto his or her door hanger as shown in the above example.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

The Bible says we need to be watching, waiting, and ready for the Lord Jesus' return. You are going to make a door hanger so that every time you open your door, you will remember to stop and make sure you are watching, waiting, and getting ready for Jesus.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things we should do while we wait for Jesus? *(We should pray, read our Bibles, worship and love God, and love others, etc.)*
2. How can we watch for the Lord? *(We can watch by being alert and by knowing what the Bible says about Jesus.)*
3. What can we do to be ready? *(We can make sure that what we choose to do will honor God, and not hurt others.)*

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## VERSE CROSSING

*Children practice street smarts as they learn what the Bible says about being patient and brave while waiting for the Lord.* By Kristy Thornton

### TOPICS:

Behavior, Courage, Following Jesus, Patience

### MATERIALS:

Stop sign [PDF] [page 10](#)  
Piece of cardboard  
Empty wrapping paper roll  
Masking tape, Paste

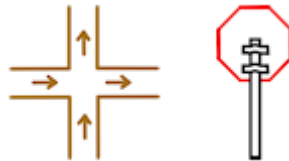


### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class, make two stop signs. First, cut out the stop sign and paste it to a piece of cardboard to make it sturdy. Then, tape the back of the sign to an empty wrapping paper or paper towel roll. In class, create two streets, crossing each other, with masking tape. Add arrows to the middle of the streets so the children will know which direction to go and so there are no collisions. Streets need to be at least five feet long on each side of the crossing. (See examples below.)



### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

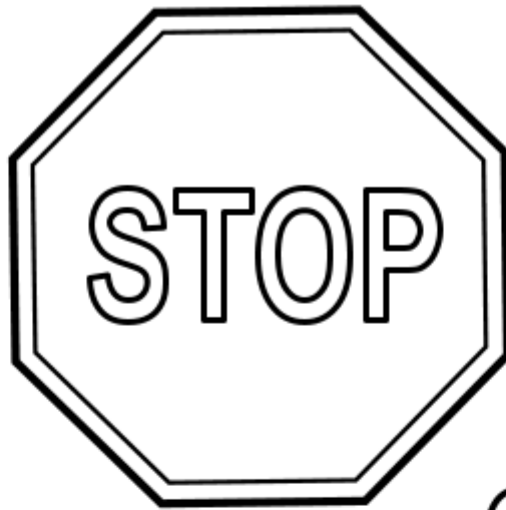
Divide the class in half. One group of children will line up at the start of one street, ready to cross the intersection. The other group will line up on the other street, ready to cross. In the above example, one group will go north while the other group will go east following the arrows. Have two adult volunteers standing at the intersection holding a stop sign. They will display the sign so the children can stop before crossing, and lower the sign when it is safe to cross.

Before any child can cross the intersection safely, he or she must stop at the stop sign and say the following verse:

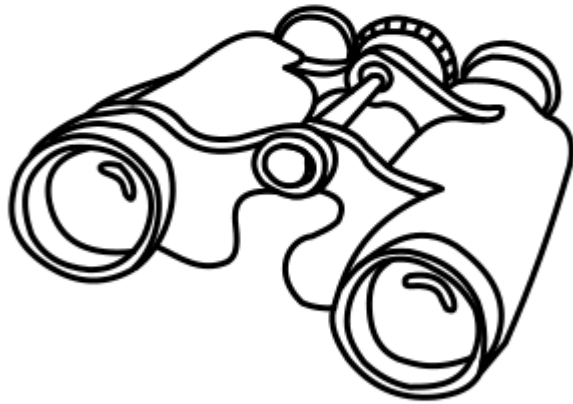
**“Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14.**

Provide help as needed to any child having difficulty saying the verse from memory. When finished crossing, he or she can go back to the end of the other line, and wait to cross the street again going the other direction.

Remind the children to cross only when the coast is clear and after the guard lowers the stop sign to avoid any collisions.



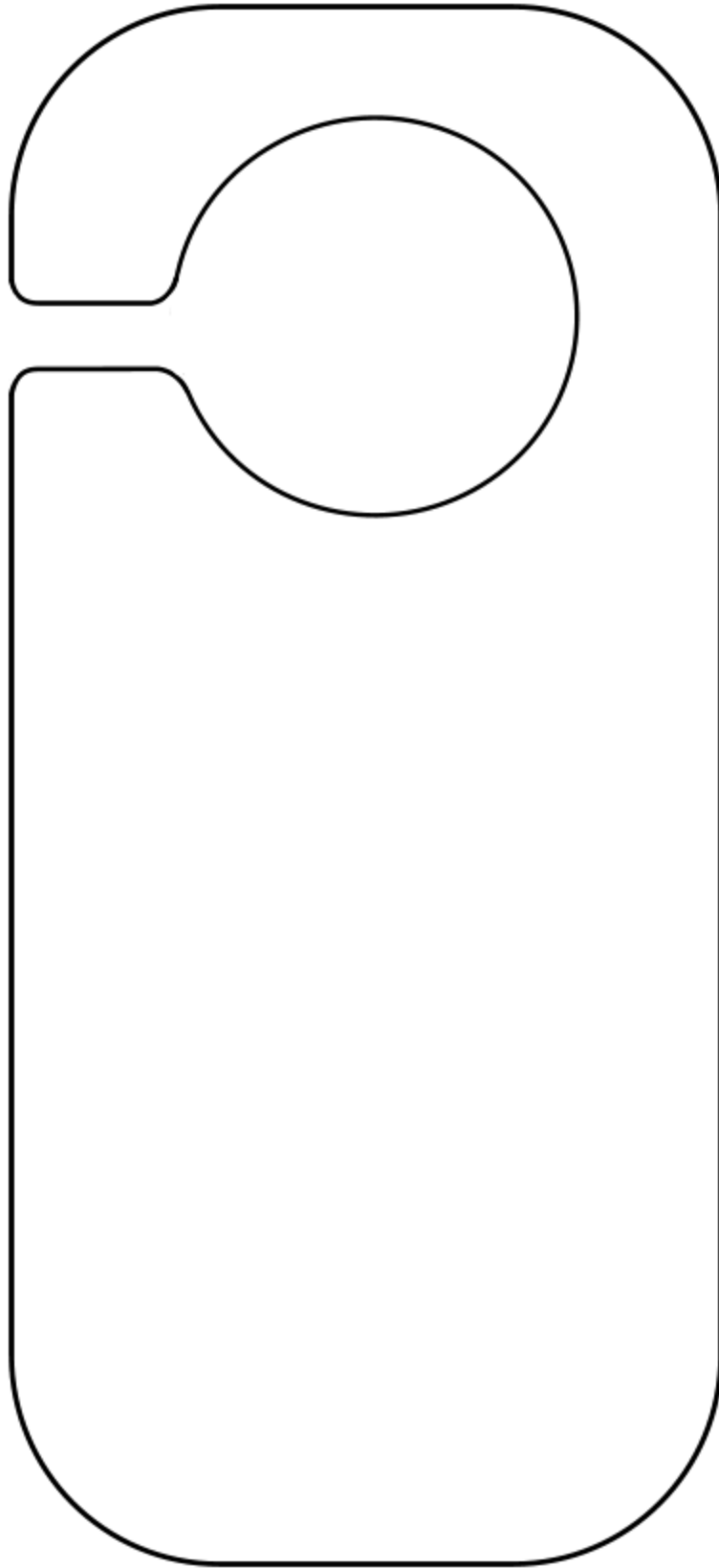
LOOK



LISTEN

*FOR JESUS*

Print on medium to heavy card stock, or use as a template





**I AM READY STICKERS**  
(Cut on dotted lines and glue to door hanger.)



I AM  
WAITING,  
WATCHING,  
AND READY  
FOR THE  
LORD



Paste stop sign to a piece of cardboard to make it sturdy.

