



You will need...

- Ppt- [Bible images from Sweet Publishing <http://sweetpublishing.com>]

The story

Waiting

We're often waiting. We can wait for so many different things:

- For a penalty shot to be taken
- In line for lunch
- For the postman to arrive on a Birthday.
- For Christmas lunch
- For a doctor
- To get onto a plane
- For Christmas/Santa to arrive
- For a swimming race to start
- Needing the loo

Turn to someone near you, and ask them the question, "What are you waiting for?"

When you're asked, "What are you waiting for?"- What is the first answer that comes into your head?

Right now, or today, or this week, is there something they are waiting for?

Today, going to hear about a man named Simeon. He was waiting. Simeon had been waiting for years. Waiting, waiting, waiting.

In fact God had promised that he would not die until he got to enjoy what he had been waiting for. God had promised that one day his waiting would be over.

Waiting! That's what we're thinking about today. What are we waiting for? Simeon was waiting. Simeon was a good, God-fearing man. He trusted God.

[P/P] "He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him 26 and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah."



He was waiting for Israel to be saved. [P/P] [*Highlight “waiting for Israel to be saved”*]
 God had promised him that he would get to see the one who would save His people Israel. [P/P]
 [*Highlight, “he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah”*]

Can you imagine; God had made a promise to him, that one day... one day... he would get to meet the final rescuer, the final King, the final real-life super hero. But when? Imagine it, everyone you ever met, you'd look at them, and wonder, “Is that them?” Then on this particular day, it seemed like any other day, we're told this...

[P/P] “Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple”
 [Phone rings in PA]. [Read screen.] Simeon got a message. [P/P] “To Simeon. Go to the temple. From God.”

The excitement Simeon must have felt. This must be it. It can't be anything else. It was finally time! The waiting was over.

He ran into the temple, looked around, there they were, and he knew, God sent him to Mary and Joseph, with the baby. And he took the baby in his arms.

[PAUSE]. *Holding baby*

[On [P/P], read]

“²⁹Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
 and you may let your servant go in peace.”

The relief! God had kept his promise. Simeon was happy to die! Everything he'd ever wanted from life, he had been given. The waiting was over. He was holding the promised one.

You could say this was the most wonderful moment in history. This squirming, wriggly baby was God's Christmas present to the world.

Simeon then bursts out a song of delight, and in that song he gives us two reasons, why this baby is worth waiting for.

Jesus is God's salvation for all
 Listen to what Simeon said...

[On [P/P], read]

“With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples”:

[*Hold the toy baby in arms.*]

As Simeon held the baby, he looked down...- he was looking at God's salvation.
 This Bible word “Salvation” isn't a word we normally use. It means “A rescue”.



This is what God had promised Simeon- a rescue.

We all know what a rescue normally looks like...

[P/P] of fire engine This is a rescue- the fire engine is a rescue for people in a burning building

[P/P] Lifeboat. For people a long way from land, lifeboat is a rescue.

[P/P] Helicopter picking someone off the side of a cliff. For a climber stuck up the side of a cliff, he needs a rescue.

The thing about all rescues - is that someone needs help, because they're in danger and they can't get themselves out of it.

Babies don't normally carry out rescues. In fact, if I were you, I would never turn to a baby in a time of great danger!

But this baby was different.

This baby had been sent to carry out a rescue that had been planned since the beginning of time.

[P/P] change slide to Point 1 placeholder

Simeon had been waiting for a savior for his own people. Simeon now knew that this baby was for all peoples.

Because all people need this rescue.

It's hard to imagine that we need a rescue!

But we have all got ourselves into trouble with God. We might not think we have, we might not know we have. But God knows we have.

We just do what we want, and do things our way, and we don't notice that we have pushed God out of our lives. None of us treat Him as he deserves- I know I don't. We don't treat God as our maker, as our ruler, as the giver of every good thing we enjoy. We are a long way from God.

We can see that in the way we think about Him, but also in the way we think about other people. It's not that we're bad, but we're not the people God made us to be. We can't get back to Him on our own.

He was so worried about us that He sent his own son- to rescue us.

A friend of mine- 13 years old, sailing along in a dinghy, with his Mum. The rudder that steers the boat fell off and sank. They were just drifting. No way back. Tried sailing without a rudder- apparently it doesn't work. His Dad was standing on the beach watching.

Too far to swim. Couldn't get back. Long way from Him.

Waved at Dad, he waved back!

Then they really waved.



Could see Dad- a long way from him.
 Couldn't get back to him on their own.

[P/P] Needed a rescue

Dad found someone with a motorboat to go and bring them back.

My friend and His Mum needed a rescue.

Needed Salvation

[P/P] placeholder

Jesus is God's salvation for all. He is the rescue we all need.

That rescue has arrived. No more waiting.

Second reason why this baby was worth waiting for...

[P/P] Jesus reveals God to all

³² A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
 and bring glory to your people Israel."

The baby- Jesus- is a light to reveal God... to His own people, Israel, and to everyone else, the Gentiles. That's everyone. That's me and you.

We know how a light works- it shines into dark places to reveal what is really there.

Jesus does that for us. He shows us what we can't see without His help. He shows us God. He helps us to understand what God is like.

[P/P] pic of teaching. Jesus revealed God in the things he taught during his life- where ever he went, people would hear him and be amazed.

[P/P] pic of miracle He revealed God by doing miracles, to show that he was different to us- He once raised a dead man to life. He had God's power.

[P/P] pic of J's life He revealed God by the way he lived. He loved people. He sometimes got angry with people who were doing things very wrong. He cared for people who no one else did. Every day of his life he revealed God, because He is God.

[P/P] pic of empty tomb. He revealed God by dying to save and rising again to rule. His tomb was empty. He had beaten death. He is alive. The rescue was completed. There is nothing left for us to do. It's finished.

In his life, death and rising again, Jesus reveals God to all.



[P/P] placeholder

By now presents under the tree.

The problem with presents...? You don't know what's in them. You know there is something in there. You can shake it. You can feel it. But you can't tell what is in them!

Just like God. He is there. We just can't see him.

To find out what's there. To know the truth. We need to open the present. Jesus is the one who opens up the present and shows us the wonder of God. With Jesus, we can understand the truth. He is the only one.

That's why Jesus is worth waiting for- because with him, we can see how things really are, the truth, the wonder, the future. So let's learn about him, hear his teaching, get to know him better, trusting him, loving him.

But imagine getting a present this Christmas that you don't open. You can't. At the end of Christmas, you put it away for another year. How annoying would that be! Year after year, the present comes out, and year after year, it gets put away again. Without Jesus, it's like that- no way of revealing God, of finding out the truth. Don't do that. Let Jesus show us the truth.

It's not a surprise that after all that Simeon had to say, Mary and Joseph were amazed. Their son was God's salvation, and would reveal.

That wasn't what they were expecting! But Simeon had just one more thing to say

Jesus reveals our secret thoughts

"This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts."

This doesn't seem as cheery. This isn't very Christmassy!

But Simeon wanted to tell Mary and Joseph what to expect. Jesus was the saviour but his life wouldn't be one of endless cheering, and happiness.

Wherever Jesus went the crowds followed, they were amazed, they wanted to be with him, they came him, they trusted him.

[P/P] of trial of Jesus. But others hated him, others plotted, and schemed, and had him arrested and even killed.

How they treated Jesus showed their secret thoughts. **[P/P] PLACEHOLDER**

Whether they trusted Jesus or hated Jesus, showed whether they wanted to be rescued or wanted to stay a long way from God.



Simeon knew that for some Jesus was be a rescue, he'd be the way to enjoy life as God made us to, forever.

But others Jesus would become bad news. How they treated Jesus would have consequences. It is still the case today.

What are you waiting for?

Most of us are fit to burst as we wait for Christmas.

The biggest wait of all is over. Our Savior and the one who Reveals God has arrived. [P/P] The waiting is over. What a wonderful reason to celebrate this Christmas.