

Go to where you normally have the children gather and flop down with a lot of drama: sigh, play with your shoe or hair. Look extremely bored. Have the kids come join you but don't seem too excited. Say, "well, you can come up if you want but don't hurry we have LOTS of time." Hopefully, the children will think this is a bit funny. When they are gathered say to them, "I'm soooooo bored. I am waiting. Waiting and waiting and waiting. Do you ever have to wait? What do you have to wait for? (Accept all answers.) Do you like to wait? Is it hard? What are some things that you do when you are waiting?"

Well, do you want to know that I am waiting for? Jesus! Jesus promised that he would come back and we know that's true but we have to wait. Today in a letter that Paul wrote to some people in Rome a long time ago he is talking to them about waiting for Jesus. The people in Rome are getting tired of waiting for Jesus and think that Jesus should just come now so that they can quit waiting for the world to be made right again. But Paul says that it doesn't work that way, even though we want it to. Paul tells them that THEY have things to do while they wait for Jesus that will help everyone learn about Jesus! What things can we do while we wait for Jesus to tell the whole world about Jesus? (Accept all answers but you may have to prompt a bit.) We can love people, we can help people, we can send cards to people in the hospital, we can make care kits for people in parts of the world who don't have medical supplies, help with clean water, etc. We are waiting and sometimes it's hard. Waiting for Jesus to come back, but it may be a long time so we might as well have something to do while we wait! God loves us and the whole world so much and we want to tell everyone!

Talk to your kids about making cards for shut-ins, do a walk by hello to those whom you haven't seen in a while, put together simple care packages to keep in the car for those in need (hand sanitizer, Kleenex, water bottle, granola bar, short written prayer, all in a ziplock bag).

Waiting is hard, God. But we know that you are with us even if we are unsure. Help us to see signs of your presence in the world. Amen.