



God's Timing for His Glory!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

God's timing is never early and never late. He always knows what He's doing, and His timing shows His glory and helps our faith grow.

Warmup Activity: How Long?

How long can children do a certain thing? You can either set a timer to see how long each child lasts, or keep the challenge going until only one child is still standing.

- How long can you stay silent?
(Make faces at the children to make them laugh!)
- How long can you stand on one leg?
- How long can you stand like a statue?
- How long can you keep your eyes open (no blinking)?
- How long can you balance a bean bag on your head?
- How long can you hum a note?

Bible Story: The Death and Resurrection of Lazarus

Bible Reference: John 11:1-44

Visuals You Will Need:

- 1 Child waiting
- 2 Mary, Martha and Lazarus
- 3 Jesus
- 4 The disciples
- 5 Jesus talking to His disciples
- 6 Martha and Jesus/Mary and Jesus
- 7 Lazarus raised from the dead

Words:

1. Have you ever waited for something, and it's taken too long?
Waiting for a friend to come over.
Waiting for Mum or Dad to pick you up.
Waiting can feel so slow, but sometimes waiting is exactly what we need.

2. Jesus had some very close friends named Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus.
He had visited their house many times.
He loved them.
One day, Lazarus got very sick.
Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus.
'Lord, the one you love is sick.'
They waited for Jesus to come to their home and heal their brother.
They waited, and they waited.
3. Jesus did not rush over straight away.
He told His disciples, 'This sickness will not end in death.
It is for the glory of God to bring glory to the Son of God.'
And so Jesus stayed where He was for two more days.
Mary and Martha waited, and waited.
4. Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Let's go to Judea again.'
This shocked the disciples.
Judea was a dangerous place for Jesus.
The Jewish leaders had tried to stone Him to death there.
'You want to go back there again?' they asked.
Jesus wasn't afraid.
He said, 'Aren't there twelve hours in a day?'
Jesus meant that God had given Him a certain amount of time to do His work,
and nothing can stop God's plan.
Jesus was following it perfectly.
God had sent His Son into the world to die on the Cross at Calvary – not in
Judea, not by stoning, not by surprise – but at the exact time and place God
chose, to take away the sins of the whole world.
Jesus wasn't afraid because He trusted His Father's timing.
Meanwhile, Mary and Martha waited and waited.
5. Then Jesus told His disciples, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; he will
recover.'
Jesus meant Lazarus was dead.
The disciples thought Jesus meant Lazarus was really sleeping.
'Lord, if he's fallen asleep, he'll wake up and feel much better.'
So Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. And I'm glad for your sakes that
I wasn't there at Lazarus' house, so that you may believe.
But let's go to him now.'
Jesus wasn't slow.
He wasn't distracted.
He wasn't uncaring.
He was obeying God's timing!
6. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but
Mary stayed at home.
Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have
died.'
Jesus sent for Mary, and when Mary arrived, she fell at His feet.

'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'
Jesus said, 'Your brother will rise again.'
He asked to be taken to the place where Lazarus had been placed.

7. It was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance.
Jesus said, 'Move the stone away.'
Martha said, 'But Lord, it has been four days since he died.
There will be a bad smell.'
Jesus said, 'Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?'
So they moved the stone away from the entrance.
Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'
Lazarus walked out.
If Jesus had healed Lazarus while he was sick, that would have been wonderful.
But raising him from the dead showed God's glory in a way no one expected!
Waiting doesn't mean God has forgotten.
God has a plan.
He is always working for your benefit.
God's timing shows His glory (His greatness, His love, power and wisdom) and helps your faith grow.

Ministry to the Children:

Sometimes you pray, and it feels like nothing is happening. You're waiting for a friend, waiting for healing, waiting for answers, waiting for courage, or waiting for things to get better at school or at home. Sometimes you want God to fix something right now. But God's timing is perfect. He knows what you need, when you need it, and how waiting will help your faith grow.

For Salvation:

Jesus brought life to Lazarus, and He came to bring you life, too! He loves you. He sees you. He hears you. You can trust Him because His timing for your life is perfect. Jesus came into the world to die for your sins and make your salvation possible. (*Galatians 4:4*) But your salvation isn't automatic. You must personally believe in Jesus. (*John 11:25*) You must surrender to Him, trust Him, and repent of your sins.

Pray:

Dear Jesus,
I know I can't save myself.
I know that I am a sinner.
Thank You for dying on the Cross for my sins.
I receive Your gift of salvation.
I surrender my life to You and trust You for forgiveness.
Help me follow You all of my life.
Thank you, Jesus.
Amen.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28

In all things God works for the good of those who love Him.

Setup:

- 12 cones in a circle like a clock
- Each cone has a word (or two) from the Memory Verse attached to it.
- Clock spinner (paper plate with arrow held by a split pin, but make sure it spins freely)
- Music

How to Play:

1. Children walk around the clock while music plays.
2. When the music stops, spin the clock spinner.
3. The child standing closest to the cone corresponding to the time shown on the clock spinner grabs the word/s of the Memory Verse and attaches it to the wall.
4. Start the music again to collect another word/s.
5. When all the words have been attached to the wall, put them in the correct order and recite them aloud together.

Game: Breaking the Clock

Everyone stands in a circle with their feet slightly apart so that each person's feet touch the feet of the players on either side. One player stands in the middle holding a ball. Their goal is to throw or roll the ball so that it goes through someone's legs. The players in the circle may use their hands to block the ball, but their feet must stay planted. If the ball successfully goes through a player's legs, that player swaps places with the one in the middle.

Craft: God's Perfect Timing Clock

Materials:

- Paper plates
- Split pins
- Two card clock hands
- Felt pens
- Stickers (optional for decorating the clock face)

Steps:

- Children decorate the plate
- Write across the middle: **"God's Timing is Perfect – John 11."**
- Add clock numbers around the edge.
- Attach the hands with a split pin so they move