



Event Guide Sample

Waiting for Jesus

Experience the Wonder of Advent

Waiting For Jesus Experience Event Guide
Published by David C Cook
4050 Lee Vance Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918 U.S.A.

Integrity Music Limited, a Division of David C Cook
Brighton, East Sussex BN1 2RE, England

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Updated 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The **Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience** is an event that aligns with the Wonder Ink Waiting for Jesus Christmas series. This is an event where kids can experience the anticipation of waiting on the birth of Jesus and the excitement of waiting for His return. This experience will take kids on a journey from the prophecies of Isaiah hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus to the New Testament story of Christ's birth and will point them to the promise of His return. It's packed with Christmas fun, including a large group experience and activity stations.

How to Use the Event

The Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience should be utilized during the Advent season. It can be paired with the Waiting for Jesus Christmas weekly series or can be used on its own. The event can be used on the first day of Advent to kick off the Waiting for Jesus series and to send home the Family Clue Cards. You can also use the event during Advent as a stand-alone event.

- All-Church Event. Invite your entire church to be a part of this event during the month of December, before or after church, or as an evening or weekend event!
- Family Event. Host the event for kids and families who attend your church. This is a great connection tool for parents and also a way to equip families as they lead their kids.
- Community Outreach Event. In addition to those who already attend your church, invite families from the community to join the fun and meet new friends in the church. Make sure to follow up and thank new families for coming!
- Kid-Only Event. Offer the event during your midweek kid's service or on a Sunday morning in December. Using it on the first Sunday of Advent would be a great way to kick off the Wonder Ink Waiting for Jesus series.

Planning Timeline and Checklist

A planning timeline and checklist for the Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience are included and can be used as a guide. Feel free to make it your own too! Only you know how to best plan for and communicate upcoming events to the families you serve.

When you have recruited an Event Leader for the Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience (one of your first tasks!), give the leader a copy of the Planning Timeline and Checklist. You can share responsibilities, or just let the Event Leader take the lead!



THE EVENT

You've prepared and promoted The Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience. Now it's time for the event! In this section, you'll find suggestions for:

- Event Schedule
- Large Group Experience
- Activity Stations
- Decorations
- Snacks
- Worship and Spotify playlist

Remember to make this event your own. Choose and modify these ideas to best meet the needs of the group you are ministering to and their families.

Event Schedule

Follow this suggested schedule for a 120-minute Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience. Or choose the activities you want to include and adjust the schedule to meet your needs.

120-MINUTE EVENT

All attendees will begin at the Welcome Activity and participate in a scavenger hunt. Then families and kids will participate in the Clue Stations (about 10 minutes per station). Then they will move to the large group experience for worship, games, teaching, and prayer. Serve snacks and hot chocolate to close out the experience!

| | |
|------------|--|
| 5 minutes | Open Doors 15 minutes Before Start |
| 10 minutes | Welcome Activity: Waiting for Jesus Scavenger Hunt |
| 30 minutes | Clue Stations (3 stations; 10 minutes per station) |
| 10 minutes | Large Group: Welcome and Worship |
| 10 minutes | Large Group Game: Mystery Christmas Sound |
| 10 minutes | Large Group Game: Mystery Christmas Scent |
| 15 minutes | Large Group: Teaching and Prayer |
| 15 minutes | Snack: Mystery Christmas Taste (Cookies and Hot Chocolate Bar) |
| 5 minutes | Closing: Prize Giveaway (optional) and Goodbye |



WELCOME ACTIVITY: Waiting for Jesus Scavenger Hunt

Open the doors 15 minutes before your event start time. As families arrive, your Welcome Team volunteers can guide families to tables and let them know there's an activity ready for them to begin.

SUPPLIES

- ☐ Name Tags
- ☐ [Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience Spotify playlist](#)
- ☐ [Waiting for Jesus Title Slide](#)
- ☐ [Waiting for Jesus Countdown Video](#) (2 minutes)
- ☐ [Waiting for Jesus Scavenger Hunt](#) (1 per kid or 1 per family)
- ☐ Writing utensils (1 per kid or 1 per family)
- ☐ Registration Table and Registration Forms (optional)

WHAT TO DO

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Waiting for Jesus Scavenger Hunt sheet for each kid (or each family). Set out writing utensils. Open doors to the large group experience 15 minutes before the start of the event. As guests enter, have them check in at the registration table (optional) and make their way into the large group environment. Play upbeat Christmas music from the [Waiting for Jesus Christmas Experience Spotify playlist](#).

To give attendees something to do while waiting for the event to begin, give each child (or each family) a copy of the [Waiting for Jesus Scavenger Hunt Sheet](#) and a writing utensil. Encourage everyone to follow the directions on the sheet and find other people who match the criteria on the sheet.

Two minutes before start time, play the [Waiting for Jesus Countdown Video](#).

Invite a photographer to take pictures during the event. Make sure to get consent from families to post their family's pictures on your church's social media.

ACTIVITY 1: Clue Stations

SUPPLIES

- ☐ [Waiting for Jesus Title Slide](#)
- ☐ [Clue Station Signs](#)
- ☐ [Clue Station Printables](#)
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Tables (3, optional)
- ☐ Flashlights (optional)
- ☐ Large piece of butcher paper

