

Vignettes

What can't wait? Time

Time can't wait. In fact, time waits for no one. Time moves forward while you sleep, and when you brush your teeth, and while you play. Sometimes time feels like it is moving slowly especially when we are waiting for something! But really, time moves at the same speed, all the time. Thank you, God, for the time we have together. Amen.

What can't wait? Newborn

Pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks, but every birth is different and the due date is just a guess. Birth parents try to be ready just in case it happens sooner! There are a lot of factors that help decide when a baby is going to be born and once that process starts, it's hard to slow down! I wonder if labor begins when a baby is bored or restless or too crowded - or because a baby is curious about what's next! Thank you, God, for all the ways new life surprises us! Amen.

What can't wait? Shoveling

If the forecast says the blizzard will bring lots of heavy snow, I try to shovel a few times during the storm so it's not too hard to move. If it snows and then we hear freezing rain is coming, I do my best to shovel the sidewalk so neighbors are less likely to slip and fall. And everything I shovel gets stacked high for snowball fights and forts. Thank you, God, for all the helpers this time of year. Amen.

What can't wait? Hiccups

My puppy, Archer, gets the hiccups all the time. When he gulps down his food or takes in big swigs of water, hiccups are just around the corner. They just come - hiccup, hiccup, hiccup. The first time he got a case of the hiccups, Archer was scared. He ran around and crawled under the bed. But even when he hid, the hiccups found him. Once Archer settles down and takes in some deep breaths the hiccups stop. Thank you, God, for the gentle reminders to breathe deeply. Amen.

What can't wait? Car Rides

"Are we there yet?" and "How much longer?" are familiar questions in long car rides. Maybe you have asked these same questions before? My family and I take a long trip each summer, and the best part is when we get where we are going, and together say: "Arrived!" Thank you, God, for road trips together. Amen.

What can't wait? Gotta Pee

I will never forget the most embarrassing moment of my life. The year was 1980, and I was in the 2nd grade. Now, I had a hard time sitting still as a child, and I was known to get up and wander around the room. My teacher didn't like this, and so when I asked her to go to the bathroom, she said no. So I got up and started to run around the room because I had to pee! When she stopped me, I peed in front of the whole class. After that day, anytime I needed to go to the bathroom, she let me go. Thank you, God, for embarrassing moments and lessons learned in life. Amen.

What can't wait? An Ice Cream Cone

Have you ever seen a 4 year old trying to eat a massive ice cream cone on a hot summer day? The ice cream melts and runs down their arms to their elbows. Their faces are smudged in chocolate or strawberry flavors. And, sometimes the ice cream cone is so big, that the top falls off and onto the floor! What follows next is a scene of kindness: the kid cries, the parents embrace their sticky little ones, and the person at the counter gives the kid a new ice cream cone. Thank you, God, for the gift of ice cream and generosity. Amen.

What can't wait? Birthdays

We have a "happy birthday" banner that we hang in the kitchen starting in August, and we leave it up until April. There is a birthday almost every month in the house! Everytime, someone says, "Shouldn't we take the birthday banner down?" I would answer with "Well, it's so-and-so's birthday in a few weeks.!" The lovely part of birthdays is that they come once a year, they are happy days, and leaving up the birthday banner reminds us of that. Thank you, God, for birthdays. Amen.

What can't wait? Allowance

When I was a little kid, I got .25 cents for an allowance. By the time I was 10 years old, I got \$1. Each Saturday after I cleaned my room, I got my allowance. And, boy! That money burned a hole in my pocket. My mom would take me to the store, and I would buy a pack of gum, or a candy bar, or if I saved it a few weeks, maybe a book of stickers. Saturdays couldn't come fast enough! Thank you, God, for an allowance that helps us to learn to share, save, and spend our money. Amen.

What can't wait? A Sneeze

You can feel it. At first, the nose starts to twitch with an itch, and then, the sun hits the nose, and along comes a big "Ahh-choo!" We sneeze into our elbows, and grab a tissue to wipe the nose. If there are allergies, we can sneeze over and over again. It's been said that we should not hold a sneeze back So if you need to sneeze, sneeze big! It can't wait. Thank you, God, for noses, throats, and ears. Amen.

What can't wait? Band-aids

Have you ever been riding your bike, or running, or climbing a tree and hurt yourself? Scraped your knees? Bumped your head? When that happens no matter how old you get, people of all ages cry, and then they reach for the band-aids. Those bandages protect the wounds and keep things clean. Thank you, God, for band-aids that help our hurts feel better. Amen.

What can't wait? 911

Calling 911 can be a scary thing. If someone calls 911 that means there is an emergency in or around their home. Whatever the problem is, someone needs help immediately. That one phone call to first responders, police, or firefighters can save a person's life or home. Thank you, God, for people who help 911 calls. Amen.

What can't wait? An Inhaler

If you have asthma, you may use an inhaler to help you breathe. Inhalers help relax muscles that tighten up in the lungs. The medicine in inhalers helps to open the airway and lets more air move in and out of the lungs to breathe more easily. People who use an inhaler know that their lungs can't wait. The medicine is a lifesaver. Thank you, God, for life-saving medicine. Amen.

What can't wait? The Truth

I confess. I stole my friend's sticker book when I was 8 years old. She had stickers that I wanted, and my mother would not buy them. For 2 weeks, I kept her sticker book in between my mattresses, and for 2 weeks, I did not sleep or eat or feel good. Finally, I told my friend the truth and gave her the sticker book back. Yes, I got into trouble, grounded for 3 weeks, but man! Telling the truth made me feel better. Thank you, God, for teaching us to always tell the truth. Amen.

What can't wait? A Fart

Dogs are lucky. When they fart, no one judges them or says, "Whoever smelt it, dealt it!" Their farts smell just as bad as human farts, but dogs just don't care about holding it. For people, and maybe for dogs, too, holding in a fart or gas is uncomfortable or even painful. Farting is like sneezing or burping just a part of what the human body does. Farts may be smelly or stinky, but make people sometimes laugh. Thank you, God, for the amazing things bodies can do. Amen.

What can't wait? Forgiveness

What is easier: to forgive someone who hurt your feelings or to ask someone to forgive you? Forgiveness means to make a decision to stop being angry or holding a grudge against someone. Sometimes people are quick to forgive, and sometimes forgiveness is too hard. It all depends on the situation. When you find yourself trying to figure out whether to forgive or not, you can always pray: Thank you, God, for forgiving me, help me forgive others. Amen.

What can't wait? A Rainbow

Before the snow comes, there are rain showers. Fierce storms with heavy rain and powerful winds, lightning, and thunder roll in. And, just like that, it all passes leaving behind a beautiful rainbow. Nothing can stop the rainbow from appearing. When we see the rainbow, we remember the promise that God loves us. Thank you, God, for the rainbow. Amen.

What can't wait? Gotta See

The Minnesota Zoo has so many "Gotta see" animals. There are bison and black bears, leopards and camels, stingrays and seahorses. People move from one "gotta see" animal to another "gotta see" animal. God's creation is filled with so many "gotta see" creatures, animals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and fish! "Gotta see" is an invitation to explore God's wonderful creation. Thank you, God, for all the things you made in creation. Amen.

What can't wait? Laughter

Why are sports stadiums so cool? They are filled with fans!
What do you get when you put 3 ducks in a box? A box of quakers!
What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!
Thank you, God, for laughter. Amen.

What can't wait? Hunger

A baby cries in the middle of the night because they are hungry. Kids come home from school wanting a snack. All people need food on a daily basis, but hunger is a real thing. Did you know there are people who walk the streets looking for something to eat? When we are hungry, our stomachs hurt, and it is hard to focus. So the next time when your tummy begins to rumble, say this prayer: Thank you, God, for food, and for people who are hungry, provide them with what they need. Amen.

What can't wait? Ocean Waves

There is nothing more magical than the ocean. The waves move in and out, kids love to jump over the waves, and the surf crashes and bubbles. Some people sleep to the sound of the ocean waves because they act as a lullaby. It's fun to swim and play in the ocean and build castles in the sand. But the waves don't wait for anyone; they come one after the other while the sand shifts underfoot. Thank you, God, for the ocean waves. Amen.

What can't wait? A Smile

So many people are sad, or lonely, or in need of a friend. You can make someone's day by smiling at them. Mother Teresa, a famous person who loved God's people, said: "We shall never know all the good a simple smile can do." A smile signals the brain that something good is happening. Smiling can lower your stress and anxiety and brighten the days of others. Thank you, God, for smiles and smiling people. Amen.

What can't wait? The Latest New Thing

Waiting for the latest new thing to be available is hard. In the 1980's, kids waited for Care Bears and Koosh Balls. In the 1990's, kids wanted super soakers and Game Boys. Things shifted in the 2000's when kids look forward to xboxes and ipads, scooters and legos. Maybe this year, you are waiting for the newest LOL doll, or a good book, or kindle. It's hard to wait for fun and new things that might come our way.. Thank you, God, for fun gifts that entertain us. Amen.

What can't wait? A Buddy Bench

Do you know what a buddy bench is? Do you have a buddy bench at your school? If you don't know, a buddy bench is on the playground, and when someone sits on the buddy bench, it signals to other kids that they are looking for a friend. Kids sitting on the bench want to play with others, and they want to be part of the playground fun. If you see someone on a buddy bench, be a friend and ask them to join you. Thank you, God, for buddy benches and good friends. Amen.