

News Story Summary

Terri Johnson and her sons, six-year-old Zach and fourteen-year-old Nicholas, have been anxiously awaiting the return of their husband and father, Col. Kenny Johnson, who was scheduled to return home to Huntsville, AL sometime this fall after a four-month deployment to Afghanistan. When Col. Johnson returns, he will find that Zach has a new Minecraft backpack, Nicholas has celebrated his 14th birthday, and both boys have many new friends. In Dad's absence, the family has been busy with church activities including Vacation Bible School, Boy Scout Activities, and a trip to Texas to visit family. They have had many friends praying for them while their husband/father is away. But, even with a fast-paced family life, these four months can seem like forever in the minds of two boys missing their dad. When Johnson returns, his loving family will be anxiously awaiting the opportunity to catch up, introduce him to their new cat, take him out to eat at their favorite Mexican restaurant, and go with him to the movies and sporting events.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Johnson family counts down until soldier returns home.")

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention idea, Open the session by sharing the news story. Ask: *What is it like to be anxiously awaiting the opportunity to see someone you love?* Explain that today's lesson from 2 Peter 3 reminds us that we as Christians are anxiously awaiting the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We don't know when He will arrive, but we are assured that He will! The Scripture also points out what we should be doing as we wait. Challenge the group to look for .

Challenge

To supplement the Summary and Challenge idea, conclude by reminding the group of the news story. Focus on actions done in anticipation of the return home of Col. Johnson. Explain that just like the Johnson family anticipates the return of their loved one, we anticipate the return of Christ. Ask: *What should we be doing while we await that glorious day?* Close in prayer, asking God to renew the hope of the group members and to help them recommit to an unwavering faith during this time of waiting.