



PATIENCE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 7, 2024

# Elementary Lesson

## The Waiting

**Monthly Virtue:** Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

**Bible Story:** The Waiting (A Patience Proverb) • Proverbs 14:29

**Key Question:** When is it hard to have patience?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**Memory Verse:** Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14 (NirV)

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because we're created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.

Key Question: When is it hard to have patience? As we start our month talking about patience, we help preteens think about the times when it's most difficult for them to wait. When we're able to anticipate the moments when patience might be tricky, we can prepare and be ready to wait. We pray that kids will learn to trust God with the situations where they have to wait.

We kick off the month with a patience proverb found in Proverbs 14:29: "Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are." When it comes to waiting, we have a choice. We can either lose our patience and get upset, or we can choose to keep our cool and think about what we can learn through our waiting. We can trust that God will help us wait well.

**Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

**Morning Flow**

- Doors Open 9:15/11:00
- Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20
- Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** (Said on the fourth weekend of the month only) “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? (Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap). Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: (Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (6 Min)

#### NECESSARY TRAINING FOR LIFE SURVIVAL

(Tablecloth with Hole in Middle, Clothespins – 20-30, Blindfold, Half of a Pool Noodle)

Welcome to a brand-new month here at KidCity! A new month means that we have a new Monthly Virtue. This month is all about patience.

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

“We’ve probably all had times where we’ve had to be patient over small things – like waiting for cookies to come out of the oven or waiting until school to tell your friend about something cool that happened to you. But this month we will be talking about GODLY PATIENCE. To help us understand what that means – check our verse out..

**(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)** “Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the LORD.” Psalm 27:14 (NIRV)

“Godly patience is deeper and trickier than normal patience. It takes trust that God will work things out for your good and His glory – even if you don’t see it immediately.

More on that later, but for now can I tell you something that I am grateful for? I’m grateful that there is a distinct lack of BUGS in this room. Specifically, ants (shudder). But the worst bugs in the world? The ones that take the top spot? Ants. Some of them bite. Some of them fly! Forget Marvel and, ‘Oh, ants are all cute because of Antman,’ no!! Not only are they creepy and thorax-y and

gross, but all of them love to eat my food! Anytime I have a cookout, all the ants want to do is congregate right on my plate.

“There is no peaceful picnic if there are ants. There is no peace if there are ants, period. Ants are the worst. So, today I’d like a few volunteers to enter into what I am calling ‘Necessary Training for Life Survival.’ In other words, we’re smashing ants.

**(SLIDE: NECESSARY TRAINING FOR LIFE SURVIVAL)**  
**(SLIDES: FUN 1 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)**

HOW TO PLAY:

- EXPLAIN THE GAME: Basically – one person is trying to keep ‘ants’ from eating the ‘crumbs’ off of the tablecloth. One person will have a tablecloth poncho with a lot of clothespins attached to it. They will also be blindfolded and have a pool noodle. Two other people (‘ants’) will be trying to sneak clothespins (‘crumbs’) off of the tablecloth without getting caught. They ‘get caught’ if they get hit by the pool noodle. After getting hit, they will have to lay on their back like a dead bug for 5 seconds before they can make another attempt. Whoever has the most clothespins at the end of time wins! If you have stages – consider playing on the ground.
  - For K-3<sup>rd</sup> environments – The one with the pool noodle is a kid and the ‘ants’ are SGLs
  - For 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> environments – They can all be kids but try to choose someone who will not utterly destroy their friends with the pool noodle. You know the ones to NOT choose. 😊
  - For K-5<sup>th</sup> environments – Use your best judgement (suggestion: younger kid doing the swatting and older (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) kids trying to get the ‘crumbs’)

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

## WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

**(VIDEO: JOY, EVERY BEAT)**

## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

**(No supplies)**

If you are anything like me, I don’t always have the patience needed to make an educated decision. Instead of waiting, I tend to make an impulsive choice.

“I’ve got to believe I’m not the only one who has trouble waiting. Chances are you’d agree that waiting can be hard. All of us want summer break now! We want snacks now! We want that game to load now!

“Consider this, though: Even if it feels difficult, could waiting . . . actually be a good thing?”

“Maybe even the best of things? Odd question, I know. How can waiting be good? Won’t you miss out? Won’t opportunity pass you by? Won’t other people get the good stuff and you’re just left with what’s leftover?”

“One of the wisest people who ever lived once shared something specifically about patience. Let’s see what someone smarter than all of us said about it

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 6 MIN)**

Solomon, Joseph, David, and Jesus all demonstrated great patience. Each made a choice to wait before responding to various situations. In doing so, they made the wise choice. For each of us to do the same, it’s important to remember the wisdom King Solomon shared thousands of years ago. Let’s read Proverbs 14:29 one more time.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 (NirV) and read.

“Anyone who is patient has great understanding.  
But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are.

“The wisdom of Solomon isn’t only true for a select few found in the Bible. All of us will face difficult situations. However, each of us can choose to take a deep breath. Instead of reacting in frustration, we can respond thoughtfully. It’s way easier to react impulsively, but it takes a great deal of patience to think before reacting.

I’ll be honest, learning to wait is no easy task. It’s hard. Sometimes it’s just a few minutes, sometimes several hours, and other times, we may have to wait many weeks or even years. Waiting gives us the chance to gain understanding and show others Jesus through our actions. It also gives us an opportunity to grow in our faith and dependence on God – trusting that He is working all things for our good and His glory.

Think on this Basic Truth:

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** ‘I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.’

Even in the waiting – God still guides us. We may not understand it, but we can know that God’s plans are good. Patience is a skill you’ll continue to learn throughout your life! There will be seasons when it’s easier to show patience. Sometimes you’ll have a hard time waiting for others, and at times, you’ll have a hard time having patience with yourself. But you’ll always have the choice to demonstrate it in your life.

“Let’s wrap up today by asking our Key Question.

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** ‘When is it hard to have patience?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen



in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...”

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

God, thank you for giving Solomon such amazing wisdom. It's true that if we're willing to wait and be patient, then we'll be able to make the wise choice. Please help us to live our lives that way. When we feel like acting out of anger, or when we feel like we can't wait, show us how we can be patient. Show us how we can live each day with your wisdom. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**

## SMALL GROUP

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Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

### KEY QUESTION (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren't any right or wrong answers but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: When is it hard to have patience?

(Answers will vary: When we don't know how/when a tough situation will end, it's hard to have patience at school, it's hard to wait to have more responsibility - I think I should have more like kids older than me, etc.)

### GREAT UNDERSTANDING (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(“Great Understanding” Activity Pages - precut with straight cuts and separated in bags, Bible)

What You Do:

- Help kids get into 2 teams.
- Have teams line up in two lines - facing the back of the person in front of them.
- Give the first person on each team a set of the prepared “Great Understanding” puzzle pieces in a zip-top bag.
- On GO, have teams pass the bag ‘Over, Under’ down the line until it reaches the last person in line. That person will pick 1 piece of the puzzle out of the bag and then run to the front of the line and start the ‘over, under’ process again.
- Once every piece is taken from their bag, they should work as a team to assemble their puzzles.
  - Praise kids for practicing patience as they complete the puzzles.

What You Say:

“Some of you had pictures of David on your puzzles and others of you had pictures of Joseph. What did we hear about today that both Joseph and David had in common? (patience) Yes! They both showed great understanding by being patient. David waited more than 10 years from the

time God told him he would be king until he actually became king. And Joseph waited years and years from the time his brothers betrayed him, through being put in prison unfairly, to when he was finally put in charge of all of Egypt!

(Use the marked Bible to read Proverbs 14:29 to the group.) “Someone who has understanding makes wise choices. Joseph and David made the wise choice, trusted God, and showed great patience. But who has been the PERFECT example of patience? (Jesus) Yes, Jesus! Jesus was ALWAYS patient! He was patient with His family, His friends, and even His enemies!

“Waiting can make you wise, so when you need to wait, ask God to help you be patient. And remember: waiting can make you wise.”

## **GREAT UNDERSTANDING EXTENSION (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)**

**(No Supplies)**

Ask:

- In what ways was Jesus an example of patience?
- Why is it harder to be patient with certain people than with others?
- If you know that someone is difficult for you to be around without losing your patience, what can you do to prepare yourself ahead of time so you don't react by saying or doing something you know you shouldn't?

## **PRAY**

“Dear God, you showed Solomon that people who are patient show great understanding. This week, help us be patient and make wise choices. Help us wait well by taking deep breaths. Help us wait well by helping and encouraging others. Above all, help us wait well by remembering what's true: that you have a GOOD plan, that you LOVE us, and that you will be WITH US while we wait. We love you and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

## **FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5<sup>th</sup>)** **(Bibles, Yarn, Scissors – optional, Memory Verse Poster)**

What You Do:

- Work together to look up the Memory Verse (Psalm 27:14) and read it. Emphasize WAIT FOR THE LORD.
- Choose the following option that makes the most sense for your group:
  - Option #1:
    - Pass out the yarn and have the kids work together to spell out 'WAIT FOR THE LORD'. If it takes a while – that's ok! It's supposed to emphasize the need for patience. (Pro Tip – choose a different kid per letter of the word so everyone has an opportunity to work with the yarn.)
  - Option #2:
    - Have your group work together to spell out the entire verse with yarn. If needed, split your group up into smaller groups.