



PATIENCE | WEEK 2 | APRIL 14, 2024

## Elementary Lesson

# Can't Hardly Wait

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

**Bible Story:** Can't Hardly Wait (Esau's Impatience) • Genesis 25:24-34

**Key Question:** What could you miss out on by not waiting?

**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: What could you miss out on by not waiting?

We will face times when we have a choice between what's good and what's best. We might rush to take the good because we don't want to keep waiting for what's best. Yet it's in those moments when we might miss out on something really great. We pray that kids will learn how to wait with the future in mind. God has something amazing planned for them if they learn to have patience.

For week 2, we turn to Genesis 25:24-34, where we find one of the best examples of what happens when someone is not patient—the story of Esau. After a hunting trip, Esau was exhausted and hungry! And wouldn't you know, his brother Jacob had a pot of stew cooking on the fire. Jacob took advantage of this situation and offered a bowl in exchange for Esau's inheritance. Turns out, Esau couldn't resist. He lost something extremely valuable, all because he was impatient.

**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)

#### TOP TEN

(Blank Paper, Markers)

Thanks for waiting while we went through those expectations. You guys are already mastering this month’s virtue – 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. Let’s play a game! I need everyone to get into groups of 5-10.

**(SLIDES: TOP 10)**

## (SLIDE: 30 SECOND COUNTDOWN)

### HOW TO PLAY:

- **GET KIDS INTO SMALLER GROUPS:** It's basically 'Family Feud'. Get kids into groups (They don't have to be even, but for **K/1<sup>st</sup>** each one should have a leader who can write down items for their group.) and give each group a piece of paper and a marker/crayon. Say that spelling doesn't matter, but speed does, so choose someone who can write fast.
- **EXPLAIN THE GAME:** You will show a category on the screen (like, 'Methods of Transportation') and groups have 30 seconds to list what they think should go in the Top Ten of that category.
- **SCORE:** Show the answer slide for the round and allow the teams a chance to count how many correct answers they have, for which they will receive one point. The order of what they wrote down doesn't matter. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins!

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

## WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: EVERY BEAT, AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS)

## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

Waiting can be difficult! I wonder if any of you have trouble waiting for something you really want—like donuts.

"The perfect food. The donut. A deep-fried, puffed pastry that no one can resist. How many of you love donuts? (Allow response) I love donuts, too. When I see or smell a donut, my brain tells my body to get that donut in my belly right now!

"I know. I have a problem.

"I know I'm not the only one with this issue. Lots of people love donuts! I'm sure a lot of you want to eat a donut right now. Am I right? Some of you, though, might have the self-control to wait to eat one later. Is there anyone who'd say you love donuts, but you could wait to eat it later? What if I handed you a donut but then told you that you just had to hold it for the next hour and couldn't eat it? It might be more difficult to resist—or more difficult to wait. This is true for us in all kinds of situations, isn't it? It's easy to try to do what you want right when you want to do it.

"Most of the time it's harder to wait.

"Is it ever better to just wait? Is it better to wait all the time? When are times in life when the best choice is to wait instead of acting immediately? More than that, what are you giving up by impulsively acting now instead of pausing and waiting for a little bit?

“Great questions—and maybe ones that don’t have a clear-cut answer. It’s a good thing we’ve got a starting point.

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

“I believe it’s easy for us to listen to this story and think we would never be so impulsive. But each one of us can easily fall into the same trap. Racing through homework just to get it done, instead of taking the time to understand it, which can help you not fail a test later.

“Sitting on the bench on your school team and not starting or not getting a ton of playing time. You might just quit—instead of sticking it out, practicing, and getting better.

“Regardless of how you need to exercise patience, waiting is hard! Regardless of your age, it’s something we have to constantly work on. Don’t forget what happens when we follow Jesus. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us to help us. All we must do is ask God for assistance in those situations when we think we just can’t wait one more minute.

Think on this Basic Truth:

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

By going to God, it could keep you from losing something valuable, or it can help you wait a little longer for something better.

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

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** ‘What could you miss out on by not waiting?’

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.

Dear God, thank you for this story about Jacob and Esau. There are times when it can be really hard for us to be patient. Sometimes we want to just act without thinking, like Esau did. But we know that if we stop and think twice, you can help us make the wise choice. Please give us the wisdom to be patient, God. 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: What could you miss out on by not waiting?

(Answers will vary: God may have better things for me down the road that I would miss out on if I jumped ahead and did my own thing, it will take me longer to learn how to make wise choices if I rush through things, I could miss out on deeper relationships if I don't stop to listen to people, etc.)

### THINK TWICE (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(“Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page” - 1 per group, Dot Stickers - 12, Pen/Pencil/Marker)

What You Do:

- Hold up the “Think Twice” Activity Page. Explain that there are always situations where we have to take a deep breath and ‘Think Twice’ about how we will respond. Usually, our first thought to a stressful situation is not the wisest choice.
- Read the first scenario. Pause and choose two kids to put dot stickers on the circles. This represents ‘thinking twice’.
- Ask: “If you choose to think twice, what kind of outcome could you have?”
- Invite volunteers to share their “Think Twice” endings to each scenario. Write down one or some of the responses in the box.
- Repeat with each of the scenarios on the “Think Twice” Activity Page.
- ASK: “Do you think anyone has ever regretted godly patience?” (Godly patience is waiting with hope that God is doing something good in your life or the lives of those around you. Your heart should not be bitter.)

What You Say:

“Great job! You made a lot of wise choices! Our emotions can lead us astray before we even realize it. This could look like anger taking over and yelling at our sister when she borrows your favorite shirt, or greed causing you to feel ungrateful when you’re waiting for a turn to play a game.

“When it’s hard to wait, who can help you make the wise choice to be patient? (Invite responses.) Yes! God can. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside you. Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit.

“So, remember, when you think you can’t wait, think (point to your temple with one hand) twice (point to your other temple with the other hand). Stop and ask God to help you wait for what’s best!” Thinking twice gives us a second to breathe. It helps us make a wise decision that benefits everyone, including you!

## PRAY

“Dear God, thank you for the gift of patience through your Holy Spirit. We know that when we choose to believe in you and follow you, we aren’t left alone in our waiting. You give us a way to be strong and have hope while we wait. Please make it clear this week when we need to show patience. Help us to slow down and remember: When you think you can’t wait, think twice. We love you and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

**(“Grill Top” Activity Page - 11x17 - 1 per group, “Burger Patties” - 2 sets per group precut, Spatulas [or paper plates] - 2 per group, Memory Verse Poster)**

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse.
- Divide your group into 2 teams (or work together if you have less than 6 kids).
- Instruct the teams to line up at one end of your area.
- Set a “Grill Top” Activity Page at the other end of the small group area
- Put both sets of “Burger Patties” Activity Page cutouts (word-side up) on the “grill.”
- Give the first person on each team the spatula (or plate to act as a spatula)
- At your signal, direct the first kid on each team to run to the “grill” and use the spatula to scoop the “burger” up. They then have to carry it back to their team on the spatula.
- Encourage them to only grab what they need! So they will need to communicate with their teammates.
- Pass the spatula the next kid in line and repeat.
- Once all of the correct patties are collected, put them in order.
- When every team finishes, open the marked Bible to Psalm 27:14 and read it.
- Lead kids to say the verse together.

What You Say:

“In our story today, did Esau wait for the Lord? (Pause.) No, he didn’t! He lost hope. Esau was so hungry he gave up his birthright for a bowl of Jacob’s stew. Esau was not patient and missed out on a lot of good things.

“Don’t give up what’s BEST for something you want NOW. Our verse this month shows us we can be strong and have hope while we’re waiting for something. We don’t have to try to do that alone. We can ask God to help us wait.

[Make It Personal] (Share with kids sometimes when it’s hard for you to be patient—whether it’s saving money for a large purchase, being tempted to cut corners to finish something quickly, learning how to do something new, or waiting your turn when service is slow. Tell kids how God’s Spirit has helped you be patient.)

“So, remember, when you think you can’t wait, think twice. Ask God to help you be patient.”