



PATIENCE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 21, 2024

Elementary Lesson

I Keep Forgettin'

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

Bible Story: I Keep Forgettin' (Golden Calf) • Exodus 32:1-35

Key Question: What can you think about when it's hard to wait?

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 can you think about when it's hard to wait? Having a strategy when it comes to waiting is a great way to have patience. We pray that as kids discover more about trusting God with patience, they'll consider all of the truth of Scripture and think about the ways God has helped people throughout history. We pray that this will give them hope as they trust that God will help them in the future. Waiting might be hard, but God's Holy Spirit can help us wait well.

In week three, we head to Exodus 32:1-35. Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. He left his brother Aaron and the rest of the Israelites to wait. Rather than waiting patiently for Moses to return, the entire nation of Israel rebelled. They built a golden calf and began to worship it instead of worshipping God. If only they had remembered how God rescued them from Egypt and trusted God while they waited!

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)

DEAR MOM, I’M FINE

(No Supplies)

“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! By show of hands, how many of you have gone to sleep-away camp? It looks like a few of you have. Sometimes when you are there they have the kids

write home to their family and tell them how it's going. We are going to see a couple of real life letters that were sent home. This game is called 'Dear Mom, I'm Fine...'

(SLIDES: DEAR MOM, I'M FINE)

HOW TO PLAY:

- THE QUESTION. This is an all-play game. Show a question slide (there are 6 total), which will have a letter written by a kid to their parent, but will have a few words marked out.
- THE ANSWER. Choose 3 kids who raise their hands what they think should go in the blank. Then, reveal the answer and laugh!

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

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS, NOT AFRAID)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

"Let's be honest in this moment—waiting is the worst. In life, though, you'll have to wait for stuff. It's inevitable.

"When our family goes to an amusement park, we have to wait sometimes for hours before getting on a ride. We wait for food to heat up in the microwave. We even wait for our video to load on YouTube.

"Without responding, just think of times you have to wait. Think of times when you want something now, but you can't have it yet. At school, on the playground, with family, getting food, downloading things, logging on . . . you can probably think of a long list!

"Regardless of how long the waiting takes, your reaction is important. There are good and bad responses to these situations. How do we make sure we respond well?"

"Great question! And when we have great questions, we need great answers. And the best place to start is this book right here—the Bible! Remember, the Bible is a collection of books, letters, poems, and prophecies written by real people who had real experiences with God. And God inspired them to write all these things down so people like us could experience God for ourselves all these years later! Let's dive into our story for today."

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 6 MIN)

"This is such a wild story, isn't it? Even after seeing miracles, the Israelites still wanted a new god because they didn't want to wait.

"The Israelites could offer no excuses for their poor choices. When the Israelites had been freed from slavery, they had witnessed signs and the power of our God over and over! But at the foot of

Mount Sinai, they grew impatient while waiting for Moses to return from the mountaintop. They forgot that God was with them and they could trust God to lead them.

“Instead of turning to God, they created a false god made of gold. Their impatience came with consequences that could have been prevented. But still, even when the people turned away, over and over, God remained faithful and continued to provide for them on their journey in the wilderness.

“It’s no different with us. I’m sure at some point in your lives there have been great things that have happened. Maybe even things that you can’t explain other than by God’s favor.

“Then why, after these great things that have happened, why are we still impatient, trying to figure things out on our own, forgetting all about God and not asking for help?

“When we follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us in times like these. In fact, in the New Testament of the Bible, we read that patience is an actual gift that comes from God’s Spirit and is evidence that the Spirit is working in our lives. This doesn’t mean we’ll be patient in every situation. But it does mean we can choose patience as we follow Jesus. For us, it’s important we work on becoming more patient. Every day, people end up in places or situations they never dreamed they would be in! They got there by focusing on what they didn’t have instead of thinking about what is true and what they did have . . . which is God!

“When you find yourself waiting, take time to focus on what’s true. Think of the ways God has helped you in the past. Remember what you know to be true about God—like how God loves you no matter what and never abandons you.

“Think on this Basic Truth:

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

“God has plans for your good and His glory – trust Him to guide you!

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

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “What can you think about when it’s hard to wait?”

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, sometimes it’s so hard for us to be patient. But we can see how when we’re not patient, sometimes bad things can happen. Help us to remember what’s true, and not forget like the Israelites did. Remind us that You can help us to be patient, even when it’s hard. Help us to remember that [Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what. 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-5th)

(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 can you think about when it's hard to wait?'

(Answers will vary: I can remember why I am waiting, I can remember God's promises always come true, I can remind myself that waiting will help me become more patient, I can pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help me wait well, etc.)

SERVING UP TRUTH (K-5th)

(“Serving Up Truth” Activity Page – 2-3 per group, precut for K/1, Scissors for 2nd-5th, Glue Sticks)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into 2 or 3 smaller groups.
- Give each group a “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page.
- Set out scissors and glue sticks near each group for them to share.
- Direct the kids to cut out the foods on the bottom of the “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to work together with their group to take turns reading each scenario at the top of the “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page, then decide which truth from the bottom best fits the scenario.
- Direct the kids to glue the cookout food/promise on the corresponding plate near each scenario.
- FOR K/1st: Read the scenarios and truths together. Have the 'truths' precut, but have kids take turns gluing them to the 'scenario plates'.

What You Say:

“Way to work together to serve up God’s truth in each of those situations. Can anyone share the truth they used in situation 1? (Invite kids to respond. Do the same for situations 2-4. Some answers may vary. Invite kids to share why they chose what they did.)

“Great job remembering God’s truth for each of those situations. This is exactly what we can do in our everyday lives when facing times of waiting. [Bottom Line] When you have to wait, remember what’s true. Next time you have to wait, take time to focus on what’s true. Think of the ways that God has helped you before.

“What are some ways God has helped you before in your life? (Invite responses.) Remember that God loves you no matter what, and that God is always with you while you wait. God has also put people in your life to help you while you wait. Who are some people who can help you?” (Invite responses.)

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you chose to remember God’s truths when facing a season of waiting. Talk about what you chose to focus on or who God brought into your life to help you through that time.)

SERVING UP TRUTH EXTENSION (2nd-5th) **(Bibles)**

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read Psalm 62:1-2.
Pro tip: Psalms is in the middle of the Bible! Have kids open up to the middle and they should be right around where they need to be.
- Discuss the verse using the prompts below to initiate group conversation.
- A truth I need to remember when I must wait is . . .
- I think this verse is helpful because . . .
- This verse challenges me to . . .
- I need to remember that God is strong when I . . .
- I think finding rest in God means . . .

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for the gift of patience. We know that as believers in Jesus, You have given us the Holy Spirit to help us when we wait. We know that the Holy Spirit can help us remember Your truths when we find it hard to be patient. You don’t leave us alone in finding strength and joy, but have made a way for patience to be possible. No matter what we find ourselves facing this week, help us be confident in knowing that when you have to wait, remember what’s true. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5th) **(Supplies Vary)**

What You Do:

- Follow the instructions of the “Books of the Bible” activity that is in your bin.