



PATIENCE | WEEK 4 | APRIL 28, 2024

Elementary Lesson

I'm With You

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

Bible Story: I'm With You (Simeon Waits for the Messiah) • Luke 2:25-35

Key Question: What good can come from 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 good can come from waiting? As we finish our month talking about patience, we want to help kids consider the current areas of life where they need patience and why it's good 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 each situation where they have to wait.

We finish the month with a story found in Luke 2:25-35. God's people had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Savior. God promised Simeon that he'd get to see the Messiah before he died. We believe that Simeon waited a long time. But finally, when Mary and Joseph came to the temple with Baby Jesus, Simeon finally saw what he'd been waiting for.

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)

THE LONGEST TRAIL

(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 on a REALLY long car trip? Long car rides can really test your patience. Let’s see if you really know your road trip lengths with this game...

(SLIDES: THE LONGEST TRAIL)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **EXPLAIN GAME.** Say that you will show a slide that has two pairs of destinations (like, from Ft. Myers, FL to Raleigh, NC and Birmingham, Alabama to Louisville, Kentucky). Kids will have to choose which ‘trail’ they think is the longest by miles. They will go to whichever side of the room their guess is.
- **THE ANSWER.** Once kids have made their choice – show the answer. This is an all-play and has no winners.

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

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: NOT AFRAID, GOD IS ON THE MOVE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

Let’s start with a question. When was the last time you waited for something that you wanted right now? Maybe it was your mom’s famous cookies, counting down the days to see family, Christmas morning, or summer vacation—take a minute to share a story with the person sitting next to you.

Take a few moments for kids to share stories. As you have time, ask a couple of kids to share, then continue.

“Thanks for sharing! And I get it, each of those examples would be difficult. Any time I am forced to wait, I have an internal clock that tick-tocks in my head. As the clock ticks and tocks, it feels like time slows down even more.

“All month long, we’ve discussed and talked about moments when we’ve had to wait. Sometimes the wait is short—like when we wait for our popcorn in the microwave or when we wait for a video game to load. But there are plenty of times the wait is longer, aren’t there? We wait for the bus in the rain. We wait for the school day to end. Our birthday never seems to come fast enough. You feel like you can’t wait to be in the next grade, or middle school, or to learn how to drive.

“When your wait seemed endless, were there moments you wanted to give up? When things got difficult, or you thought you figured something out only to find you had more to learn?

“Maybe math is difficult and doesn’t come as easily as you want. Ever feel like throwing in the math towel?

“Maybe you had an injury while playing a sport. As you sit on the sidelines waiting for things to heal, all your teammates seem to be getting better and better while you sit there and watch. Might make you want to quit, doesn’t it?

“For those who have gone fishing, I’m sure you have felt like giving up before you caught a fish!

“What are we supposed to do when we want to walk away instead of enduring the wait?

“Great question. Let’s see if we can find an answer in the Bible! Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who experienced God and wrote down what they learned about God so we can get to know God for ourselves. It’s the best place to start if you need help trusting God and finding wisdom—and it turns out that finding patience takes a whole lot of both! Let’s take a look.”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)

I love this story because we see the patience of Simeon paying off. He didn’t complain. He didn’t quit.

“He just waited and held fast to God’s promise.

“The Israelites waited for hundreds of years for Jesus’ arrival. When the time came, Simeon was able to hold Jesus in his arms just as God promised. That’s a pretty great reward for being patient!

“The Bible does not say how long Simeon waited for the promise to be fulfilled, but we do know it didn’t happen right away. Simeon appears to have waited patiently and with joy, trusting God’s promise to come true.

“He didn’t know how his story would unfold, but I feel confident Simeon would say it was worth the wait. It’s a great example of waiting on God’s promises to come to pass! In the same way the Holy Spirit was with Simeon, God is with us, too. I realize there are plenty of times we want to give up, but we have to remember this story! God is with us while we wait.

We’ve used this Basic Truth all month long....

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

I’m sure there were times in the 400 hundred years when the Israelites didn’t hear from God that they were impatient or that they doubted the goodness of God. But when the time was right – God gave the world Jesus. We can trust that God is with us in the waiting and guiding us so – when the time is right – we are able to do big things for His glory.

And the beauty of waiting patiently? That shows the world what God is like. We can show others a good attitude instead of grumbling. We can show the world calmness instead of anger. Even if the very thing we are waiting to happen never does come true, we can still show others God.

“Each of you are at a great age to practice patience. Not saying that all of you are impatient . . . but . . .

“We realize many of you have upcoming events and milestones that are keeping you awake with anticipation. In KidCity, we want to help you with the hard stuff in life—like showing patience. As we gear up to move into our Small Group time, we want you to think on this one question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘What good can come from 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 so much for the story of Simeon. Simeon trusted Your promise to send a Savior . . . and he waited patiently because, God, You were with him. We know that You can help us to be patient, just like You helped Simeon. You are with us always, and we can trust You no matter what. We are so thankful for that! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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

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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 good can come from waiting?'

(Answers will vary: I may learn things about myself that I wouldn't have known if I had rushed, I learn how to trust God more, I can appreciate what I have NOW more, I can show others the character of God while I wait well, etc.)

CAN YOU WAIT? (K-5th)

(1 Minute Hourglass - 1 per group, Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- SAY:
 - Waiting can be hard, but it's good practice because most things in life come after waiting. We are going to practice waiting today and we are going to see if you have good waiting skills!
- Give the kids a series of challenges. Choose ones that make the most sense for your group. Use the hourglass (lasts for 1 minute) to see if kids can wait/do for the time. At the start of the challenge say, "God is with you while you wait."
 - Have kids pair up and stare at each other for a minute and not laugh.
 - Have kids say the memory verse repeatedly for 1 minute.
 - Have kids balance an item on their head for 1 minute.
 - Have kids do jumping jacks for 1 minute.
 - Have kids do planks/wall sits for 1 minute.
 - Have kids 'catch a bubble' (not speak or make sounds) for 1 minute.
- ASK: Describe a patient kid. Why is that kind of person more fun to be around than someone who is always impatient?

- SAY: “Waiting can be hard, especially when we don’t know how long we’ll be waiting. But, in our story today, Simeon showed us what it looks like to not lose hope while we wait. Through his many years of waiting, Simeon was patient, with joy—trusting in God’s promise. And when the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior. And Simeon was able to hold Jesus in his arms, just as God’s Spirit had promised. Our story not only reminds us that God is with you while you wait, but also shows us that we can be wise with the time we have while waiting. Simeon continued to serve God and grow in faith and knowledge.”

PRAY

“God, thank You that You don’t leave us in the waiting. No matter how long we have to wait and no matter what we’re waiting for, You have promised that everything will be made right in the end for those who follow Jesus. Please work through Your Holy Spirit in us to help us this week to wait with hope. May we trust and believe that God is with you while you wait. 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.