

# Alley SG - April 14-15, 2018

**Bible Truth:** Are We There Yet? (A Patience Proverb) \* Proverbs 14:29

**Bottom Line:** When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

**Key Question:** What do you do when it's hard to wait?

**Memory Verse:** "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD!"

*Psalm 27:14, NIV*

## 1. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- **Sit** in a circle as a group.
- **Choose** a volunteer and ask him to take a deep breath then begin talking about the topic of patience or impatience until he runs out of breath.
  - He can tell a true story, make up a story, give a definition, share a verse related to the topic, tell what he's learned this month, and so on.
- If needed, offer a few starters such as the ones below to prompt ideas:
  1. I need to take a deep breath and remember to be patient when . . .
  2. Impatience reminds me of . . .
  3. Something I don't understand about patience is . . .
  4. I wasn't very patient when . . .
  5. I think patience matters because . . .

## 2. Discussion Questions

- 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 and not lose your patience, how is that helpful?
- Explain why you agree or disagree with the following statements:
  - A patient person—a person who "waits for God"—is more fun to be around.
  - When I lose my temper, it's not always my fault.
  - My friends know that I don't mean what I say when I'm angry, which makes it okay.
- What are some ways that impatience can hurt us? How does it hurt others?
- Tell about a time when a friendship ended because someone got mad and couldn't chill out. (No names, please.) What would it take for them to be friends again?

## 3. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, cardstock, markers

**What You Do:**

- **Set out** the markers and give everyone a piece of cardstock and a Bible.
- **Remind** students about the verse they heard about today in Large Group: Proverbs 14:29.
- **Tell** them that there are many other verses in the Bible that challenge us to be patient and not lose our cools.
- **Assign** students a verse from the list at the bottom of the page. (*For your quick reference, each verse is printed in full using the NIV translation.*)
- **Tell** everyone to write the verse reference on the back of his cardstock then look it up in his Bible.

- Using the markers, **let** them create a simple road sign or billboard that illustrates what they think is the main point of their verse. Suggest that they identify a key word and replace it with a picture that represents that word.
- When finished, **let** everyone share their signs and the verse that goes with it. Ask them how they can live out that verse this week.
- **Close** the activity by reminding students that if we call ourselves followers of Jesus, our lives should show it.
  - We don't wear a "sign" that says we're following Christ, but when we keep our cool with someone when they annoy us or when they let us down, we become walking, talking, living signs that demonstrate God's kind of patience.

**Galatians 5:22-23** – *"But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind."*

**Colossians 3:12** – *"You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient."*

**Psalms 40:1** – *"I was patient while I waited for the Lord. He turned to me and heard my cry for help."*

**Proverbs 14:29** – *"Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish he is."*

**Proverbs 15:18** – *"A man who burns with anger stirs up fights. But a person who is patient calms things down."*

**Ephesians 4:2** – *"Don't be proud at all. Be completely gentle. Be patient. Put up with one another in love."*

#### 4. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Playground Ball

**What You Do:**

- **Sit** together in a tight circle then **place** the ball within reach of everyone.
- **Ask** students to name some things that often try their patience and cause them to lose their cools.
- **After** each person shares, let those who identify with that example place their hand on ball.
  - **Pray** (or invite a volunteer to pray) a short prayer for God's help in that area this week.
- **Repeat** the process several more times with different types of situations where patience can be a struggle.
- If some of the kids don't place their hands on the ball, **encourage** them to still pray along.
- If your students have difficulty coming up with suggestions, **draw** from the following examples and prayers.
  - Patience with family members. *(Dear God, help us show Your love to our families by being patient with them the way You are patient with us.)*
  - Losing our cool with kids at school. *(Dear God, help us to be good examples of keeping our cool with our friends at school. Help us to not say or do things we will regret later.)*
  - Getting impatient with ourselves when we mess up. *(Dear God, help us live for You and do our best. When we make mistakes, help us come to You right away and ask forgiveness.)*
  - Getting upset when we have to wait for something we really want. *(Dear God, help us remember that You love us and are always in control.)*
  - Forgetting to be patient until it's too late. *(Dear God, help us to ask forgiveness when we lose our cool.)*