

Alley SG - April 28-29, 2018

Bible Truth: Souped Up (Esau's Impatience) * Genesis 25:24-34

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

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

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

Psalm 27:14, NIV

1. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed. Kids will be bringing the Airheads they received at Large Group to Small Group.

What You Do:

Ask:

- Regarding the Airhead experiment, why did you make the decision you did- to wait or eat it right away?
- If the whole group ate their candy, would you be more likely to give in and eat it too?
- What is it about pressure from our peers or stressful situations that often causes us to lose our cool and do something without thinking?
- The consequences of Esau's impulsive choice caused him a lot of pain and regret. What are some positive gains of waiting rather than settling for what we want right now?
- What can you do when everything in you wants to go the unwise route?
- What are some strategies that would help you practice patience by pausing to think twice when you feel like losing your cool?
- When you are continually impatient and seldom think twice, you become someone nobody wants to be around. Explain why you agree or disagree with that statement.

2. Just For Fun

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Sit** together in a circle.
- **Ask** who's feeling the craziest/most hyper right now then let that person be your first volunteer.
- **Choose** another student who is less crazy/hyper to be the one the hyper student tries to make laugh.
- **Tell** the student to act out being EXTREMELY goofy/crazy/silly.
 - He can use actions and sound effects such as funny faces, weird sound effects, or whatever he thinks will make the other student laugh.
 - If he succeeds and the person grins, smirks, giggles, or laughs, the other student becomes the hyper actor.

Note: If you have a quieter group, consider asking all but one student to be the actors and see if they can get a giggle out of the remaining student through their combined efforts.

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** students to think of (but not to say out loud) situations when it's a good idea to think twice and not act out of impulse or impatience. Their ideas can be real or silly.
- **Tell** them to share their ideas by acting them out in slow motion and letting the others guess what they're doing.

- Here are some possible ideas you can offer if needed:

- Cheating on a test
- Hitting the snooze button
- Making fun of someone
- Telling a secret
- Saying cuss words
- Gossiping
- Crossing the street

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, plastic spoons (12 per bin)

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a plastic spoon then ask everyone to sit together in a circle.
- **Explain** that you will read Genesis 25:27-34 to review the story of Jacob and Esau.
 - You'll pause after each verse to let students consider whether there is a "think twice moment" at that point in the story.
 - If they think someone should have hit the pause button and thought twice, tell them to tap their spoon on the table.
 - Let those who tapped the table share their ideas then go on to the next verse.
 - It's okay if kids don't have ideas for every verse or if some verses have more than one "think twice moment."
- **Discuss** the story.
 - Why do you think Esau was willing to give away his birthright so easily?
 - We don't have birthrights to give away, and lentil soup isn't something any of us would die for, but there ARE some things that we have a hard time waiting for. What are they?
 - Esau lost out big time. What can we lose out on when we only think about getting what we want right now?
- **Turn to** Hebrews 12:16b-17 and read it aloud to the group.

Tip: Sexual purity is mentioned at the beginning of Hebrews 12:16. While being sexually pure is clearly an area where preteens need to think twice, the greater emphasis for this activity is on the rest of the verse – the consequences Esau regrettfully faced after he gave up his birthright for a bowl of stew. Use your discretion in deciding whether or not to read the first half of Hebrews 12:16, while letting students recognize the high value God places on all areas of patience and purity – heart, mind, and body.

- **Remind** your group that we can't always choose what happens to us, but we can choose our responses. When we think twice, we have a better chance of doing what is wise rather than getting upset with what's happening in the moment.
 - What are some situations when kids your age are tempted to make an impulsive choice?
 - What can you do to not end up in an "Esau Moment"?
 - There's no PAUSE or REWIND button in real life, but what can you do to make things right or even just better after you've made a choice without thinking it through?

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, "Think Twice" Activity Cards (1 set per bin)

What You Do:

- **Invite** someone to read James 1:19 out loud.
- **Ask:**
 - What does it mean to be *quick to listen*? What about *slow to speak*? How about *slow to anger*?
 - If someone followed James 1:19, how might it help him or her to *think twice*?
- **Choose** partners.
- **Give** each pair one of the "Think Twice" scenario cards then ask them to come up with the following:

- One “Esau Option” – a quick-fix-response that might feel good at the time but would have negative consequences later
- Two “Think Twice Options” – responses that follow God’s advice in James 1:19 and wait for what’s best
- When finished, **ask** students to choose the scenario they resonate with the most.
- **Encourage** them to use some of the “Think Twice Options” and avoid the “Esau Options” this week.

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Lead** the students in a prayer response using prompts below, allowing kids to pray their answers out loud like a popcorn prayer.
 - God, today I learned that . . .
 - God, please help me remember . . .
 - God, please forgive me for . . .
 - God, please help me think twice before I get impatient with . . .

Dear God, we have learned a lot about patience this month. Now it's time to put what we've learned into practice. Please help us wait with joy even when what's happening is stressful. Give us the strength to wait for what is best and not settle for a quick fix. We know that patience is fueled by faith, so help us trust you as we wait. In your name we pray, Amen.