

# Alley SG - April 7-8, 2018

**Bible Story:** Baby on Board (Hannah Prays for a Baby) \* 1 Samuel 1:6-2:1

**Bottom Line:** When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it.

**Key Question:** When is it hard to have patience?

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

*Psalms 27:14, NIV*

## 1. Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** Paper (one sheet per child), pens

**What You Do:**

- **Give** everyone a pen and sheet of paper.
- **Choose** one person to jot down his answer to one of the questions listed below.
- Without anyone seeing what he wrote, **ask** the other students to write down what they think his answer will be.
- **Compare** and give points to anyone who matches the original answer.
- **Choose** another student then play again until everyone has had at least one turn.
- **Questions:**
  - What do you do first thing in the morning?
  - What is the first thing you do when you get home from school?
  - What part of a meal do you like to eat first?
  - What's the first thing that pops into your head when you think of "puppies"?
  - What was the first word you said today?
  - What the first thing you do when you get to church?
  - If you got a new phone, what's the first thing you'd do?
  - When you have extra money, what's the first thing you like to spend it on?
  - What's the first thing you do when you're frustrated with someone?
  - What's the first thing you do when it's time to go to bed?

**Wrap Up and Say:**

"Those were great answers and great guesses. Often the things we choose to do first are the things we want to do most or the stuff we feel is important. Today we talked about something that's a very wise and important first choice, showing patience."

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bibles, prepared craft stick (stick colored 4 different colors, see below), yarn (one length per group)

**What You Do:**

- **Show** students the prepared craft stick.
- **Explain** that the colors on the stick represent different parts of Hannah's story.
  - **Black:** *something hurtful, unkind, or wrong*
  - **Red:** *a person or situation that made someone impatient, frustrated, or angry*
  - **Blue:** *something sad or disappointing*
  - **Yellow:** *something happy*

- **Tell** the students to take turns wrapping the yarn around the stick as they share one or two sentences about events they remember from today's story—one wrap for each sentence.
  - When the yarn reaches a new color, they can begin sharing a new element of the story.
- **Hand out** Bibles. Ask one student to look up Colossians 1:11 and the others to look up 1 Samuel 1:6-11, 27-28.
- **Let** the person who looked up Colossians 1:11 read it aloud.
- **Remind** the students that this verse was written long after the book of 1 Samuel, but truths in God's Word stand strong no matter how many years go by.
- **Invite** everyone to comment on whether they think Hannah lived out Colossians 1:11.
- Then, as a group or in pairs, look for examples from 1 Samuel 1 to support their answers.
- By way of application, **encourage** students to share actual examples or give scenarios in which they need to go to God for help to be patient.
- **Consider** using the craft stick and having them wrap the yarn around one of the colors that applies to the situation they are sharing.

### 3. Discussion Questions

#### Ask:

- Tell the group about a situation when you had to wait a long time for something to happen.
- What are the signs that you're about to lose your patience? What sets you off? Why might it be helpful to know those signals?
- What might be the benefits of prayer during times when we have to wait for a long time?
- Name some ways God helps us to be patient when we're in a long waiting period for something the way Hannah was.
- God always answers our prayers, but His answers aren't always "YES." What can you do when God's answer is "NO" or "KEEP WAITING?"
- When you're feeling stressed or frustrated, what can you do to avoid losing your patience in the first place?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, pens, "Always Pray" Activity Page (one per child)

#### What You Do:

- **Ask** the students to take turns finishing this sentence: "I can always . . ."
- After everyone has taken a turn, if none of the students finished their sentences with, "I can always *pray*," **stop** and **remind** them of God's desire for us to come to Him anytime, anywhere, and at ALL times.
- **Let** students pick partners (or divide your group into pairs) then hand out Bibles, "Always Pray" Activity Page, and a pen to each person.
- **Challenge** teams to look up the verses on the "Always Pray" Activity Page then fill in the blanks with the missing words. (Answers are at the bottom of this page.)

**Tip:** Tell your students to open their Bibles to the front to find the table of contents. Show them how to find what book of the Bible they are looking for and then turn to that page number. When they find the book, explain that the large numbers on the page are the

chapter numbers (the first number in the verse address) and then within each chapter are smaller numbers, which are the verses (the second number in the verse's address). Consider looking up the first verse on the Activity Page together.

- As students complete the verses, **invite** them to discuss each one with their partner then write an answer to the Sentence Starter below each verse. (*Sentence Starter: I need to remember this verse when . . .*)
- Bring everyone together, and as time allows, **let** students share some of the sentences they wrote.

### Answers to "Always Pray" Fill-in-the-Blanks

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIRV) "**Never** stop **praying**."

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) "**Pray** continually."

Colossians 4:2 (NIRV) "Give a lot of **time** and **effort** to **prayer**. **Always** be **watchful** and **thankful**."

Colossians 4:2 (NIV) "**Devote** yourselves to **prayer**, being **watchful** and **thankful**."

1 Chronicles 16:11 (NIRV) "**Look** to the **Lord** and to his **strength**. **Always** look to him."

1 Chronicles 16:11 (NIV) "**Look** to the **Lord** and his **strength**; **seek** his face **always**."

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- **Form** a circle.
- **Read** Psalm 27:14 aloud.
- **Challenge** the students to ask God's help to live out Psalm 27:14 this week.
- **Re-read** the first part of the verse ("*Wait for God*") then ask the students to kneel down as an outward expression of their trust in God.
- **Invite** them to repeat the following prayer with you:  
*"Lord, help us wait for you when we're tempted this week to be impatient or to give up. Help us remember to trust you while we wait because we know that Your timing is always perfect."*
- **Read** the second part of Psalm 27:14 ("*Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord!*") and then ask students to stand up as an expression of their desire to be strong for God this week.
- **Invite them** to repeat the following prayer with you:  
*"Lord, thank You for being our strong and powerful God. Please help us to be strong when we face situations this week that are frustrating and try our patience. Remind us to come to You for the help we need to wait. In Jesus' name, amen."*

## Dismiss