

City SG – April 28-29, 2018

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

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

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD!" *Psalms 27:14, NIV*

1. Fool Me Once

What You Need: Small ball/marble (one per group)

What You Do:

- Hold a small ball behind your back.
- Encourage kids to guess which hand the ball is in, one at a time.
- The first kid to get it right gets to go next and hide the ball behind his back.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow, or until each kid has had a turn.

What You Say:

"You guys were pretty good at choosing which hand that marble was in. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we heard about someone who had a very important choice to make but, sadly, he made the choice too quickly. We need to think twice, and make the right choice. God can help us to do that!"

2. Which Is Better?

What You Need: Starburst (enough for 2 per child)

What You Do:

- Give each child a starburst. Tell kids that they may eat their starburst now, or **if they keep their starburst until the end of service**, you will give them another piece during Prayer.
- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Name a pair of items kids need to choose between, such as a cookie or a slice of cake, and direct kids to go to one side of the room if they would choose the cookie and to the other side if they would choose the slice of cake.
- Call kids back to you and continue the game.
- For successive rounds you might name:
 - Chocolate ice cream or vanilla ice cream
 - A chocolate chip cookie or a candy bar
 - Playing a video game or going to a movie
 - Playing soccer or watching TV
 - A slice of pizza or a hamburger
 - One slice of cake or a whole cake
 - A penny or a 100 dollar bill
 - Your favorite meal or a million dollars
- Add variety by guiding kids to move different ways: tiptoe, crab walk, walk sideways, walk backward, etc.
- Keep interest high by maintaining a quick pace and high energy.

What You Say:

"In our Bible story today, we heard about someone who made a choice between two things. We know that he didn't make the wise choice, but you can ask God to help you make the wise choice each and every day!"

3. Think . . . Twice

What You Need: “Think. . . Twice” Activity Page (one per group)

What You Do:

- Lead the kids in a stop-action version of charades.
- Read the scenarios on the Activity Page and guide kids to pantomime the situation as you read.
- Be sure to read dramatically and pause occasionally so the kids can pantomime the action.
- When you say, “Stop,” instruct kids to freeze.
- When you then say “Think . . . twice,” lead kids to put one forefinger on their temple when you say “think” and their other forefinger on their other temple when you say “twice.”
- With kids frozen in this position, read the two choices given.
- Guide kids to pantomime the wise choice.
- At the end of the game, invite kids to tell in which of the scenarios it would be hardest for them to practice patience.

What You Say:

“It’s important that we don’t make the mistake of giving up what’s *best* for something we want *now*, but sometimes waiting can be hard! When is it hard for you to wait for something? (*Pause.*)

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids when it’s hard for you to wait until later for something you want now. Also tell how you stop and think twice about the possible consequences and rewards.)

“Who can help you make the wise choice to be patient? Yes! God can. So remember, ***[Bottom Line]*** when you think you can’t wait, think twice. Think about what you might miss out on if you don’t wait, and ask God to help you wait for what’s best!”

4. Patience Pyramids

What You Need: Prepared plastic cups with Psalm 27:14 (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Split the kids into two groups.
- Give each group a set of cups and direct kids to work together to stack the cups to make a tower or pyramid.
- They can either stack them in order from top to bottom or from bottom to top. However they choose, they’ll need to practice patience to be successful!
- When the groups complete their pyramids, guide them to “read” the verse aloud with you as they point to the words.

What You Say:

“Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. Psalm 27:14 tells us that God wants us to wait for HIS best for us. But God knows that waiting isn’t always easy. That’s why He encourages us to be strong and not lose our hope in Him. So, ***[Bottom Line]*** when you think you can’t wait, think twice, and remember to wait for God’s best!”

(Note: Leader will need to mix up the cups before the next service.)

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids what they think it means to be patient.
- Give another starburst to the kids who kept their original piece. If it applies, ask if it was hard to watch others eat theirs, while they needed to be patient to wait until the very end for double candy.

- Ask if anyone would like to share about times or situations where it's hard for them to be patient, and ask what they might try to do about that in order to help them wait.
- Encourage kids to bow their heads for a moment and silently ask God for help to think twice, keep their cool, and remember what's true.
- After a moment, pray aloud for the group, using the guide below.

What You Say:

- “God, sometimes it can be so hard to wait because we want something RIGHT NOW. But we know that it's better that ***[Bottom Line]*** **when you think you can't wait, think twice.** So help us this week to take the time to think twice about our decisions. Help us think twice before we do or say something we might regret. Help us think twice before we decide to rush something that You have told us we need to wait for. Help us to think twice because we love You and we believe that Your way is the best way. Amen.”