

WHEN IS IT HARD TO HAVE PATIENCE?

Your day is probably full of things that try your patience.

Waiting for the bus.
Waiting in the lunch line.
Waiting for your sibling to finish on the iPad.
Waiting for dinner to be ready.

What are some others?

Look through that list, and think about what you tend to do when you get impatient.

Are you tempted to lose your temper or take shortcuts. Maybe you're tempted to settle for something that's okay just because you don't want to wait for what best.

Look at that list one more time. What are some ways you can resist those "quick fixes" and choose patience instead?

PATIENCE

Waiting until later for what you want now

Read 1 Samuel 1:10-11

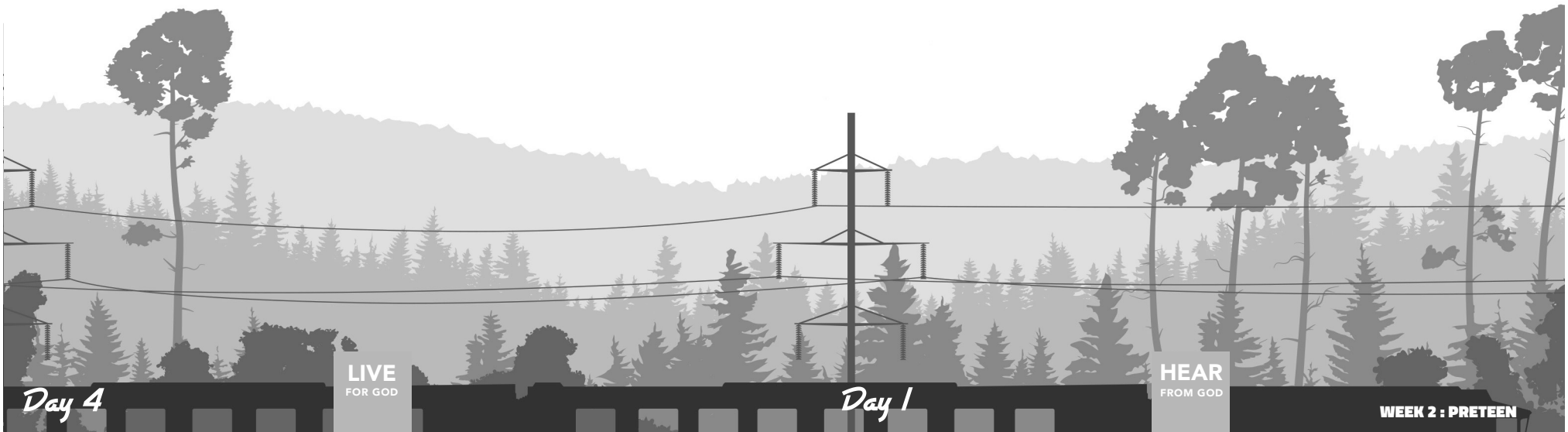
Can you think of something you really wanted when you were a little kid? How about something you really want right now?

It was probably really easy to come up with the second one, right? It seems like we're always waiting for the "next thing." Maybe you're waiting for something specific, or maybe you're waiting for something to happen.

Hannah wanted a baby—more than anything. When you read her prayer, you can see just how desperate she was.

She was so upset, but she knew what to do. She knew that she could always talk to God. He would understand.

In the most difficult situations—even in the waiting—you can always talk to God. Ask Him to give you strength. Remember that He loves you, and He'll never leave you!



"I can trust God no matter what."

When you're waiting for something, you REALLY have to decide . . . am I going to trust God? Do I really believe that He knows what's best for me?

See if you can guess what it says in Philippians 4:6 (NIRV):

_____ happens, tell God about
_____.

(You can look it up if you get stuck.)

The first part is pretty important. **No matter what.** You can talk to God while you wait. What you want MIGHT happen. But it also might not.

Trusting means that you really believe God is in control of it all. It means telling him about **everything** in your life—the good, the bad, and the ugly. It means talking to Him while you wait.

Take a minute to talk to God right now and tell Him that you trust Him.

Here's a question to ask the people you know best:

Have you ever had to wait for something important?

The adults in your life probably have some great stories about times they had to wait. After all, you don't go very far in life without having to be patient for the things you want.

Did your Small Group Leader have to wait for something? Did your older brother ever have to wait patiently? How about your aunt or uncle, or your grandparents?

If you find yourself spending time with any of them this week (especially those who you know follow Jesus), don't be afraid to ask.

Find the right moment and see if you can learn from their experience.

