

Alley Rundown—September 4th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Unforgettable You (Abraham and Isaac) • *Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-7*

Today's Key Question: When have you had to wait for something big?

Today's Bottom Line: Trust God even when you have to wait

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

CG: *Dude Perfect Filler Videos*

"What's up Alley? I'm really excited for THIS DAY to finally arrive. All the other days of the week are good, but I really look forward to days like this when we can have some fun and learn more about God.

"Maybe it's just me, but I'm not good at waiting. When we bake cookies, the minute we add the chocolate chips to the dough, my mouth starts to water. I still struggle to sleep the night before my birthday! Knowing I'll see my out-of-town bestie soon, the clock seems to s-l-o-w d-o-w-n! Does anybody else know what I'm talking about? (Pause for response.)

Tell a personal story about a time they had to wait a long time for something special. The following is an example of how to edit the script with your own story in mind. If you choose to use this as a hypothetical situation, choose a theme park or entertainment venue that's close to you and relevant to the kids in your community.

"When I was about seven years old, my parents gave us a really special present at Christmas. We unwrapped a small box with several admission tickets to one of the most exciting places on earth—Universal Studios! You've got to understand that I was raised on classic cartoons like *Transformers*, *Despicable Me*, *The Incredible Hulk*, and *Amazing Spider-man*. The idea of going to the home of these characters blew my mind. I would get to ride on ALL the best rides!

"However, there was a catch. We weren't hopping in the car to head to Orlando that day . . . or even that week. In fact, my parents gave us admission tickets to Universal Studios THREE ENTIRE MONTHS before the actual trip. THREE MONTHS! That felt like a LITERAL eternity away. It was 2,190 hours of waiting. It was 131,400 minutes of pacing! It was 7,884,000 seconds of absolute torture! For three months, all I could think about was Universal Studios. It felt like the trip would never come. No doubt I was the most annoying child on this planet because I would ask them 'Can we go yet?' at least four times a day! That's approximately 364 times for those counting.

"But you know what? The vacation finally came, and we got to see it all. It was worth the wait, but the wait was SO hard!"

"Every single one of us has had to wait for something exciting! It could have been waiting for the upcoming soccer league to start or waiting for your best friend's birthday party over the weekend. Alright, here's a question for you to think about quietly to yourself. How many of you would say you enjoy waiting? (Allow moment for reflection.) If I were to guess, I'd say that not many of you like to wait.

“Exciting events are awesome, but waiting for them can leave us frustrated and annoyed. If we aren’t careful, it’s easy to completely lose our patience by screaming, hollering, and having a general freak out moment! Others of us may try to distract ourselves by playing lots of video games or hiding our little sister’s toys behind the couch. Each of us have stories where we acted impatient while waiting for something awesome to happen.

“But have you ever wondered what it would look like to patiently wait even if you’re really, really excited? In [Name of Environment], we talk about trusting God. It can be easy to trust God when everything is going well. When times are rough or require patience, it can be more difficult to lean on God because we want it now! What would it look like to trust God when we have to wait? Is God even trustworthy if we have to wait? How can we make sure we’re trusting God and waiting well?

“Those are some good questions we get to explore today. Remember, when you have a question, one of the first places we should look is the Bible. The people who wrote the different books in the Bible were each inspired to write down their experience with God so we could learn from them and get to know God for ourselves. Let’s find out what we can learn from the Bible about trusting God when we have to wait. Here’s this week’s Episode of the So & So Show!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)

“Both Abraham and Sarah knew the feeling of waiting for something really exciting. Despite their old age, God promised the couple a son. They had to wait a long time for God’s promise to come true. In fact, when God told them they would have a son, they thought it was impossible. This is the reason Sarah laughed at the thought of her having a baby!

“Crazy enough, we read in Genesis that Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born! Trusting God in this situation would have been super difficult. However, nothing is impossible for our God. Just as God promised, Isaac was born.

“And the whole world was and is blessed through Abraham’s family. Much later, God’s plan would continue when another baby, named Jesus, would be born through Abraham’s family line, and Jesus changed everything.

“Every person knows what it feels like to wait. We live in a fast-paced, ever-changing world where the food is served fast, phones operate off high-speed 5G networks, and online orders offer same day delivery. Nobody likes to wait! The truth is, though, we’re going to have to wait for things. Your family may have to wait for the doctor’s test results to see why your grandparent isn’t feeling well. After your tryouts, you’ll have to wait to see if you made the dance squad. After asking God for help, we may have to wait for a response.

“But even while you’re waiting, you can trust God is still there and God still cares about you! The story of Abraham and Sarah reminds us that God is still trustworthy even when we are feeling impatient. God loves each one of us and doesn’t abandon us while we wait!”

“There are many people and things we might try to place our trust in while we wait. However, there will be nothing more trustworthy and more reliable than God! As we prepare to head to Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“When have you had to wait for something big? What did you learn about God during that time? What did God teach you about yourself? If you’re not sure how you’d answer those questions, don’t worry! You’ll have a chance to chat about all of this and more with your Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us wait well. After all, we can trust God no matter what. Let’s pray.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard.
After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.*

OFFERING TIME:

Who?:

Eli and Mandy Garcia
Vida Nueva Ministries
Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Our amazing global partners at Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico love kids! They are kids, just like you! They go to school. They love soccer!

But unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or education.

Vida Nueva Ministries is dedicated to overcoming poverty through education.

Vida Nueva has built an entire set of schools in the city of Piedras Negras, where kids of all backgrounds can come and learn. They also receive meals and hear about Jesus.

Vida Nueva also helps Mexico by starting churches in many of the cities in the country. Places like: Piedras Negras, Tepic, Puebla, Acapulco and Cancun.

These churches are also full of families who love Jesus and want to serve the people of Mexico. That’s why when you bring your offering in this month, you are helping people in Mexico learn how much Jesus loves them!