

ALLEY Rundown – April 6-7, 2024

Today's Bible Story: The Waiting (A Patience Proverb) • *Proverbs 14:29*

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to have patience?

Today's Bottom Line: Waiting can make you wise.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NIRV)

SLIDE: Theme

What's up, everybody! Welcome to one of my favorite places in all the world, the Alley! It's spring and it's getting nicer outside, and one of my favorite things to do when the weather is nice is to have a cookout. And that's our theme this month: Cookout: It's worth the wait. What are some things you like to cook on the grill? One of my favorite things to eat is [type of food] at a cookout. I kind of wish I had one right now. But you can't just eat that [food] right out of the package. You have to cook it! That takes patience.

And this month we are talking about patience. Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. Before we get into more about that I have a fun picnic related game to play. It has to do with a couple of the condiments you put on your picnic foods.... Ketchup and mustard! Raise your hand if you like ketchup better? How about mustard? Well, we're going to see just how much you know about these two favorite condiments in a trivia game called...Ketchup VS Mustard!

GAME SLIDES: Ketchup Vs Mustard

Great job! Who knew you guys knew so much about condiments!

SLIDE: Theme Background

Well, like I said, we are talking about patience this month. if you are anything like me, I don't always have the patience when there is something I really want.

I've got to believe I'm not the only one who has trouble waiting. Chances are you'd agree that waiting can be hard. All of us want summer break now! We want snacks now! We want that game to load now!

Consider this, though: Even if it feels difficult, could waiting . . . actually be a good thing?

Maybe even the best of things? Odd question, I know. How can waiting be good? Won't you miss out? Won't opportunity pass you by? Won't other people get the good stuff and you're just left with what's leftover?

In the Old Testament, there is a book called Proverbs. It's so good, chock full of sayings and nuggets of wisdom that you can take and apply to your life, right here, right now. Most of the book of Proverbs contains wise sayings from one of the wisest men to ever walk the face of the earth—a king named Solomon.

He once shared something specifically about patience. Let's see what someone smarter than all of us said about it.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (15:00)

Patience is a skill you'll continue to learn throughout your life! There will be seasons when it's easier to show patience. Sometimes you'll have a hard time waiting for others, and at times, you'll have a hard time having patience with yourself. But you'll always have the choice to demonstrate it in your life.

Don't forget that we have the very best example of patience in Jesus. Jesus was patient and loving with everyone around Him. He didn't get angry when people misunderstood Him, or even when they tried to trick Him. He took the time to help people understand what God's love is all about, because He SHOWED them love with His words and actions.

It's not easy to be patient, but remember that we can always talk to God and ask God to help us. The apostle Paul wrote in one of his letters that patience is a gift from God's Spirit. In other words, patience is something that God can create IN us so that we can make a difference in the world AROUND us.

If we choose to put our trust in God, then it will be easier for us to wait . . . because we know that God is with us. It's like we read in our Memory Verse for this month, Psalm 27:14:

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Wait for the LORD.

Be strong and don't lose hope.

Wait for the LORD. (Psalm 27:14, NIV)

As we prepare to head to Small Groups, I want you to think about this one question:

SLIDE: Key Question

When is it hard to have patience? What are the situations and circumstances in your life when it's difficult to wait patiently? Is it at home? At school? Is it while doing your homework? Definitely with family! Before we discuss your answers with your Small Group Leaders, let's pray together. I want us to ask God to help all of us to have great understanding, just like Solomon did!

SLIDE: Theme Background

Large Group Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star Helps People who are struggling financially. They help them with their basic necessities AND they help them with whatever it is they need to do, to be able to get in a better place and support their families. One of the things the kids need are supplies to help them succeed in school. One of the programs they have to help kids get the school supplies they need is called Jump on the Bus. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this video...

VIDEO: Jump on the Bus

So, let's help the kids be ready to jump on the bus this year! Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to help underprivileged kids start their school year off right. So when you go home this week, look at all of your blessings, and think of ways to raise some money for kids in need in our area!

SLIDE: Theme