

ALLEY SG – April 13-14, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Can't Hardly Wait (Esau's Impatience) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

Today's Key Question: What could you miss out on by not waiting?

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

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

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, spoons (several per bin)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Place the spoons (one less spoon than the number of kids) in the middle of the circle within reach of all the kids.
- Explain to the kids that you'll read Genesis 25:27-34—today's Bible story about Esau's impatience.
 - As you read the story, pause at random places (particularly where there was a situation in which it would have been easy to get impatient, frustrated, or tempted to do something impulsive that person might later regret).
 - Whenever you pause, kids must quickly grab a spoon. There is one less spoon than there are kids in the circle.
 - Whoever is left without a spoon will be asked, "Why might it have been wise to think twice here?"
 - As you ask the kid without a spoon to reflect, suggest they imagine themselves being part of the story and consider what people might have been thinking and feeling.
- When finished reading, discuss the story together.
 - Why do you think Esau was willing to give away his first-born rights so easily?
 - We don't have the same rights to give away, and lentil soup isn't something any of us would sacrifice so much for, but are there things that we have a hard time waiting for?
 - Esau lost out big time. What can we lose out on when we only think about getting what we want right now?
- Remind kids that we can't always choose what happens to us, but we can choose our responses. When we think twice, we have a better chance of doing what is wise rather than getting upset with what's happening in the moment.
- Continue the discussion.
 - What are some situations when kids your age are tempted to make an impulsive choice?
 - What can you do to not end up in an "Esau Moment"?
 - There's no PAUSE or REWIND button in real life, but what can you do to make things right or even just better after you've made a choice without thinking it through?

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Index cards (2 per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid two index cards and a pen.
- Ask the kids to come up with two situations during which it would be wise to think twice and not act out of impulse or impatience.
 - One idea should be more serious or important and the other can be just plain silly. (For example: stealing something is serious; eating dirt, not so much, but both are worth thinking twice about before actually doing it.)
- If needed, write additional ideas such as the ones listed below on index cards and add them to the mix:
 - Eating a frozen drink too fast resulting in a “brain freeze”
 - Cheating on a test
 - Hitting the snooze button
 - Making fun of someone
 - Telling a secret
 - Eating a worm
 - Juggling knives
 - Gossiping
 - Over-eating
 - Starting a fight
 - Walking a tight rope
 - Crossing a street
- Tell kids to write their ideas on separate index cards without letting others know what they wrote.
- Collect the cards and shuffle them together.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Lead that kid to draw a card and act out the situation without speaking as the remaining kids guess the scenario.
- If no one guesses in a timely manner, invite the kid acting to reveal what’s on the card then choose someone to go next.
- Continue until all cards have been acted out.
- Invite kids to share about actual times when they took a moment to think twice, ask for God’s help, and respond wisely as well as times when they didn’t.

3. Discussion Questions

- What are the signs that you’re about to lose your patience? Why might it be helpful to know those signs?
- What can you do to be ready the next time you feel yourself getting impatient?
- Why do you think waiting can be hard for us?
- What are some situations you really want to do better at when it comes to waiting and thinking twice before you act?
- Do you think anyone has ever regretted being patient?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Ball

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read Psalm 27:14
- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together. *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NirV)
- Give one kid the ball.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

5. Pray

- “Dear God, we have learned a lot about patience today. Now it’s time to put what we’ve learned into practice. Please help us remember to think twice before we act. Give us the strength to wait for what is best and not settle for something we will regret later. We know that patience is fueled by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, so help us trust You as we wait. In Your name we pray, Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As parents come to pick up, Invite the child to share this month’s memory verse, Psalm 27:14.