

ALLEY SG – April 20-21, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I Keep Forgettin' (Golden Calf) • *Exodus 32:1-35*

Today's Key Question: What can you think about when it's hard to wait?

Today's Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember what's true.

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, "Burger or Dog" Cards, (8 cards of each per bin), index cards (2 per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Invite kids to share what they remember from today's Bible story.
 - Refer to Exodus 32:1-35 to clarify any questions or reinforce any details of the story they might have missed.
- Give each kid two index cards and a pen.
- Divide kids into two groups.
- Ask kids in one group to write one true statement about something that happened in today's Bible story on one index card and one false or made-up statement about the story on the other.
- Ask kids in the other group to write a true statement about God or the Bible on one of their index cards and one untrue statement on the other.
- Collect the cards.
- Ask one kid from each team to sit across from one another with one burger and one dog card between them.
- Explain that you will read a statement from the stack of index cards.
 - If they believe the statement is **true**, they must try to be first to grab the **hamburger** card.
 - If they think the statement is **not true**, they must grab the **hot dog** card.
 - If they grab one before you finish, they must complete the statement.
 - If they can't complete it correctly, the other kid is given the full statement and the opportunity to decide if it's true or false to earn the winning point.
- If kids disagree with whether a statement is true or false, allow them to explain their view. Ask leading questions or provide insight as to why particular statements are true or false.
- Continue by having each team send a different kid to compete.
- Refer to additional True or False statements below, if needed.
- After the review, ask:
 - Based on everything God had shown Israel in the past, what should they have known to be true about God?
 - If you could step back in time and join the Israelites as they waited for Moses to return, what might you have said to help them remember what's true?
 - What are some things you know are true about God that can help you wait?

Additional True or False Statements:

- God gives the Holy Spirit to help believers make the wise choice. (*True*)
- The Israelites made the image of a horse. (*False*)
- Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. (*True*)
- Aaron went up Mount Sinai with Moses. (*False*)
- The people gave Aaron gold to use to make an idol. (*True*)
- Instead of God, the people worshiped the image made from their jewelry. (*True*)

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Direct the group to sit in a circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns talking about patience and impatience as long as possible with one breath.
 - They can tell a true story, make up a story, give a definition, share a verse related to the topic, tell what they have learned so far this month, and so on.
 - The challenge is that kids must take a deep breath then begin talking until they completely run out of breath.
- If needed, offer a few starters such as the ones below to prompt ideas:
 - When I get upset, I need to take a deep breath and remember that . . .
 - Impatience reminds me of . . .
 - A patient kid . . .
 - I hate it when I have to wait for . . .
 - Something I don't understand about God (or the Bible) . . .
 - One thing I'd tell someone about God is . . .
 - I think patience matters because . . .
 - One thing I know to be true is . . .

3. Discussion Questions

- Name three things you believe to be true about God. If you can, include a Bible verse or Bible story to support it. (*Encourage kids to think back on today's story if they can't think of other verses or stories.*)
- How might those truths help when you're in a situation that's stressful, annoying, or when you must wait longer than you want?
- When we mess up, what can we do to make things right or better after we lose our patience?

4. Verses to Take with You

Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, index cards (one per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read Psalm 62:1-2.
- Discuss the verse using the prompts below to initiate group conversation.
 - A truth I need to remember when I must wait is . . .
 - I think this verse is helpful because . . .
 - This verse challenges me to . . .
 - I need to remember that God is strong when I . . .
 - I think finding rest in God means . . .
- Challenge kids to come up with additional "It is surely true . . ." statements about what they believe about God that can help them when they need to be reminded to wait with patience.
- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Ask them to write down one thing they feel is important to remember when they are feeling impatient but must keep waiting by starting with, "It is surely true . . ."
- Remind kids to refer to their cards this week to remember what's true.

5. Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for the gift of patience. We know that as believers in Jesus, You have given us the Holy Spirit to help us when we wait. We know that the Holy Spirit can help us remember Your truths when we find it hard to be patient. You don’t leave us alone in finding strength and joy, but have made a way for patience to be possible. No matter what we find ourselves facing this week, help us be confident in knowing that ***[Bottom Line]* when you have to wait, remember what’s true.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to tell their parent one true fact from today’s Bible story.