

ALLEY SG – April 6-7, 2023

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)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Spatula (one per group), and "Flip and Finish" Cards (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Set the "Flip and Finish" cards face down on the floor.
- Ask kids to gather around them.
- Explain that they will take turns using the spatula to flip over a card (as if turning over a burger on a grill).
 - Each card begins with a different word or phrase followed by: "can make you . . ."
 - On their turn, kids will read the card then finish the sentence.
- Give an example to get kids started such as, "Playing soccer can make you . . ." then let kids offer suggestions for how they would end that sentence (nervous, bored, excited, tired, etc.).
- After all the cards have been turned over, wrap up with one more round in which everyone takes a turn filling in the sentence, "Patience can make you . . ."
- Read Proverbs 14:29 aloud to the group.
- Ask:
 - What does this verse describe as benefits that might come with being a patient person?
 - How would you describe a person who has great "understanding"? What about someone who is foolish? (*Clarify that being "foolish" doesn't mean that someone isn't smart. This verse is referring to those who repeatedly make unwise or bad choices.*)
 - When we're in a situation that tests our patience, what consequences might be avoided if we choose to *RESPOND* with patience instead of *REACT* in anger?
- Invite one of the kids to share a situation when they are tempted to get impatient, angry, or frustrated. It can be as simple as a family member dominating the TV remote or as frustrating as being teased by a kid at school.
- Remind kids that it can be tough to stop and think, wait patiently, and make right choices. But God can help them grow in patience with every situation they face.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Mustard bottle, ketchup bottle, (one of each per group) “Hot Dog” card (1 per kid), Floor Tape

***After the last service give the ketchup and mustard bottles away to the kids!**

What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a “Hot Dog” card.
- Ask kids whether they like ketchup, mustard, neither, or both on a hot dog.
- Set the mustard and ketchup bottles on the floor or table about four feet apart then place a line of tape between them.
- Explain that the yellow mustard will represent situations that are easy for them to feel patient, calm, and totally okay with. The red ketchup bottle will represent situations that make them feel impatient, frustrated, angry, and about to lose their cool.
- Ask them to place their “Hot Dog” to the side of the tape line that indicates how easy or difficult it would be for them to be patient in that situation.
- Remind them to place their “Hot Dog” on the side with the red **ketchup to indicate hot and ready to lose their temper** and on the side with the **yellow mustard for cool, calm, no sweat**.
- Read the scenarios at the bottom of the page or add others that your group can relate to.
- With each scenario, allow kids to briefly share why they responded the way they did.
- Ask:
 - What made that particular situation easy or hard for you?
 - What do you normally do when you feel impatient?
 - What are some consequences you’ve experienced by getting impatient that have helped you be a bit wiser the next time in the way you respond?
- Direct kids to retrieve their “Hot Dog” and repeat with each scenario.

Patience Scenarios:

1. The dog destroyed a gift you made for your mom that you’d been working on for weeks.
2. Your hair looks kind of ridiculous today, and you don’t have time to do anything about it.
3. You’re so hungry after school, but you’re not allowed any snacks before dinner.
4. Your little sister wants to watch a ridiculous show about puppies saving the world—AGAIN.
5. You’ve been practicing the same song for an hour and still can’t get it right.
6. Your parents said “no” to something you want to do, and all your friends’ parents said “yes.”
7. You try out for the soccer team but don’t make it.
8. A trip your family has planned keeps getting canceled.
9. You forgot your lunch at home.
10. Your brother gets a bigger dish of ice cream than you do.

3. Discussion Questions

- In what ways was Jesus an example of patience?
- Why is it harder to be patient with certain people than with others?
- If you know that someone is difficult for you to be around without losing your patience, what can you do to prepare yourself ahead of time so you don't react by saying or doing something you know you shouldn't?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, pens or markers, "Patience Sandwich" Activity Page (one per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct kids to look up and read Psalm 27:14. Give each kid a "Patience Sandwich" Activity Page and a pen.
- Ask kids to write out the first line of the verse on the top of the sandwich, the next part in the middle, and the last portion on the bottom bun.
- Invite kids to explain if they would agree or disagree with the following statements and why:
 - Waiting for the Lord means sitting and praying or reading your Bible. *(We should always talk to God and learn what the Bible teaches us, but we can actively wait for the Lord by using our waiting time to do something kind and show God's love through our actions.)*
 - Patient is a gift from God's Spirit. When we follow Jesus, we can grow in patience. If you agree, what are some ways we learn to be patient? *(ask God's help, take a deep breath to give yourself time to respond wisely, pray for the person or problem that is annoying you)*
- Recite Psalm 27:14 together one more time to help everyone remember it.
- Encourage kids to hang this verse up somewhere at home. When they begin to lose patience this week, they can remember to take a slow breath and say a quick prayer. It will give them time to think about what they should say and do. Remind them that they have the power to make a situation better instead of worse.

5. Pray

- "Dear God, you know how hard it is sometimes for us to WAIT. We get impatient when we must WAIT in line, WAIT for dinner, or WAIT for our turn in a game. We ask that You help us make WISE responses and not foolish reactions that hurt others and us. Give us the ability to WAIT for You with patience for the things we want now. Remind us this week that WAITING can make us WISE.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As kids are picked up, ask them to let their parent know what we are working on having more of this week? *(Patience)*