

CITY LG – April 20-21, 2024

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

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)

Monthly Virtue: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

LG SUPPLIES: A Table, 5 water bottles

WORSHIP

All of Me

He Has Won

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends! I'm so excited to see you here today. If you're ready to have some fun, give someone a high-five like this! (*Demonstrate, then pause for response.*) Awesome! All month long in the City we're talking about patience.

SLIDE: Virtue

Patience is **waiting until later for what you want now.**

SLIDE: Theme

I bet we can all think of things we really want—things we wish could happen right now. But we often have to wait for those things to happen. And we really need God's help in order to wait patiently.

I think we've all been waiting patiently for today's game . . . so let's get started! First, I'll need _____ (*choose between 2-5*) Small Group Leaders to join me on the stage.

All Small Group Leaders come to the stage. Give each of them a disposable water bottle and have them stand behind the table(s).

Okay. As you can see, each leader has their very own water bottle. We'll set a timer for one minute and see how many water bottle flips each of them can land.

That means the water bottle lands right side up and doesn't fall over!

Pick up a bottle and demonstrate this in slow motion, showing the bottle flipping end-over-end and then landing right side up.

(To audience) If you've ever played this game before, you know it's not easy. It takes a lot of patience to keep trying until you get your bottle to land just right. *(To leaders)* But leaders, I believe in you—and you know your small group will be cheering for you too!

Okay, I think we're ready. Please keep track of your own score, leaders. Let's get 60 seconds on the clock. Ready, set, go!

VIDEO: one minute timer

At the end, have each leader share how many flips they landed. Celebrate all of the leaders for their great effort and dismiss them to their seats.

SLIDE: Theme

That was so much fun! Way to go, leaders. You kept at it and kept trying patiently!

Today's story is from the second book of the Bible, Exodus.

Now, you might remember how God chose a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham's family eventually became known as the Israelites, and the number of people continued to grow and grow. But the Israelites had to live in slavery in Egypt—for hundreds of years!

At last, God sent a man named Moses to lead the Israelite people to freedom. Moses led God's people into the wilderness, where God gave them water and food. Let's check out what happened in the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

Even though God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the people forgot so quickly! They forgot to trust that God was with them . . . and that God would lead them. They tried to do things on their own and find something else to worship.

When we find ourselves in situations where we have to wait for something we really want . . . or if there's something that we hope will happen, and we're not sure that it ever will . . . we need to take time to think about what's true.

That's what we need to focus on today. Check out our bottom line...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

When you have to wait, remember what's true.

We can remember that God loves us no matter what, and that God is always with us while we wait. We can remember that God can help us to be patient. We can remember that God has put people in our lives who can encourage us and help us wait well.

Patience isn't always easy, but when we choose to follow Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. Patience is a gift that God's Spirit creates IN us.

Our Memory Verse for this month is Psalm 27:14. Let's say it together.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD. (Psalm 27:14, NIV)

Nice job, everyone! This week, let's be strong. Let's remember what's true. Let's trust God to help us be patient. Let's pray and ask God to help us with that.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Dear God, sometimes it's so hard for us to be patient. But we can see how when we're not patient, sometimes bad things can happen. Help us to remember what's true, and not forget like the Israelites did. Remind us that You can help us to be patient, even when it's hard. Help us to remember that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING

We've been talking the ministry we are raising money for with our offering. Does anyone remember what it is? Yep...Morning Star Mission. It's a mission right here in Joliet, IL that helps people who are struggling financially. If you brought your offering, go ahead and put in in the container. Let's take a look at this video of a family of 6 who lost their home and needed help.

VIDEO: Family of 6 live in car

SLIDE: Theme

What a great mission to support. Morning Star changes lives! See what you can do this week to raise some money for this awesome mission.