

CITY LG – April 6- 7, 2024

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

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)

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

LG Supplies: Cooler with items you might find at a cookout.

WORSHIP

All of Me

He Has Won

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

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! It's so great to see you! My name is [your name], and this month we're talking about patience.

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

I know . . . I know. It's really hard to wait for something you want right now. For example, 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!

When you find yourself having to wait for something—whether it's your favorite food, or something else—it's important to remember that God can help you wait. Patience is something God's Spirit does IN us, and that can help us when we have to wait.

I've got a fun waiting game for us to play today. Yes—it's fun . . . AND it involves waiting! If you've ever played the game 'Hot Potato,' it's a lot like that. First, let's all get in a big circle.

Give the small groups some time to join others to form a circle.

Note: If you have a lot of kids, you want to make two or three or more different circles so there's a greater chance for the kids to pass the items during the game.

Bring out the bin with the game items inside.

All right. Now, I've got this bin full of items you might see at a cookout. When the music starts, I'll pass an item to one of you, and you'll pass it around the circle. When the item comes to you, you can pass it either way—left or right. (*Demonstrate.*) But you don't want to wait TOO long to pass the item to the next person . . . because when the music stops, whoever is holding the item is out.

If you get out, just step back like this for the next round of the game. (*Demonstrate.*) But don't worry, because you're only out for one round, and then you can step back into the circle. Make sense? We'll have a different cookout item for each round of the game.

Are you ready to play? (*Pause for response.*) Okay—here's our first item.

AUDIO: Music

Note: Whoever is playing the music should not be looking at the kids as they pass the items. Just stop the music at a random time.

The kid who's holding the item when the music stops should step back out of the circle for one round, then come back in. A round ends each time the music stops. You may need to be the referee to say who's out . . . but keep this lighthearted and fun. (It's fine to say there's a tie and no one is out.)

After each round, put the item back in the bin and then pull out a new cookout-themed item for the kids to pass around. Play as many rounds as time allows.

That was really fun! And you all did a great job playing. You had to wait for your turn to pass the items . . . then you had to pass them right away so you wouldn't be out . . . and then you had to wait for the music to stop to see where the items would end up!

(Hold up Bible.) The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of wise sayings. These short sayings are full of great advice that can help people make wise decisions in their everyday lives. Many of these sayings came from King Solomon.

Actually, I've got a picture of Solomon right here.

SLIDE: Photo Album Image 1 (young Solomon)

Solomon was very young when he became king. He was worried about leading an entire nation because he was young and didn't have very much experience.

SLIDE: Theme Background

One night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream. God told Solomon that he could have ANY gift he wanted. Let's find out how Solomon answered him in the Story Lab....

Video: Bible Story

When things don't go the way we want them to, it's really hard to be patient. It's hard to stop and think about what the wise choice would be. It's hard to wait! But God is there to help us. God can help us GROW in patience . . . and to grow wiser each day.

It's like Solomon said—patient people have great understanding. Let's check out our bottom line video.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Waiting can make you wise.

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)*

Can you say that with me?

SLIDE: Theme Background

Great job! 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.

When something doesn't go your way, stop and take a deep breath. (*Take a deep breath.*) Choose to respond with wisdom. Pray and ask God to help you wait. In fact, let's do that right now. Will you pray with me?

SLIDE: Theme Background

"God, thank You for giving Solomon such amazing wisdom. It's true that if we're willing to wait and be patient, then we'll be able to make the wise choice. Please help us to live our lives that way. When we feel like acting out of anger, or when we feel like we can't wait, show us how we can be patient. Show us how we can live each day with Your wisdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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 needs **AND** they help them with whatever it is they need to do, to be able to 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 some ways to raise some money for kids in need in our area!

SLIDE: Theme