



## WEEK ONE – APRIL 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *A Patience Proverb | Proverbs 14:29*

**Bottom Line:** *Waiting can make you wise*

**Memory Verse:** *“Wait for the LORD. Be strong + don’t lose hope. Wait for the LORD.” – Psalm 27:14*

**Virtue:** *Patience – Waiting until later for what you want now*

**Basic Truth:** *I need to make the wise choice*

**Series Overview:** Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don’t have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what’s best for us. God sent Jesus. Because we’re created in God’s image, we can reflect God’s patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God’s Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.

**Bottom Line: Waiting can make you wise.** There are lots of times in life when we have to wait. Kids have to wait in lines, for school to let out, or to take their turn on the playground. In some situations, it can be more difficult to wait than in others. We pray that kids will remember that the times when we have to wait can become opportunities for us to trust God and grow in wisdom.

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## 9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | **EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

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### Opening Small Group Activity

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines + working as a group*

**What You Need:** Buzzer

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct both teams to form a line facing you.
- Direct each team to send up a representative to answer a fun trivia question.
- As a representative from each team comes up, ask a question that is listed below.
- Instruct the kids to hit the buzzer or bell to signal that they want to answer the question.
- The first kid to hit the buzzer or bell and answer the question correctly, wins!
  - If a kid hits the buzzer and does not answer correctly, direct the other team to try to answer the question and earn a point.
- Instruct the teams to send up a new representative each round until you've gone through all the questions.
- Announce the winning team + let them select a piece of candy out of the prize bag!
  - Questions: (the answers are in bold)
    - What was the original name of the famous yellow mustard most of us use? (**A. cream salad brand** or B. yellow cream sauce)
    - What was ketchup's first name (A. ketchup or **B. catsup**)
    - What did the largest hamburger on record weigh? (**A. 3,591 pounds** or B. 2,902 pounds)

- Which of these statements about hot dogs are true? (**A. Hot dogs are an approved space food.** or B. Hot dogs are not permitted in space because of the microgravity.)
- One engineer spent six years examining one attribute of which beloved cookout food? (**A. the crunchiness of a potato chip** or B. the shelf life of sliced cheese)
- Which cookout food briefly went into extinction during World War 2? (A. noodles for potato salad or **B. potato chips**)
- Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt, supposedly credited her good health and beauty to which popular cookout item? (A. mustard or **B. pickles**)
- What state in the United States owns the biggest barbeque pit? (A. South Carolina or **B. Texas**)

**What You Say:**

“How many of you all were totally just guessing with those answers? (*Allow time for responses.*) Yeah! Those were some seriously fun facts. It was tempting to just hit the buzzer before you even knew if you had the answer, wasn’t it? **[Transition]** *Today in Large Group, we’re going to hear about how waiting can actually give us an advantage in life.*”

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**9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 | LARGE GROUP**

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**Large Group Overview:** We kick off the month with a patience proverb found in **Proverbs 14:29**: “*Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are.*” When it comes to waiting, we have a choice. We can either lose our patience and get upset, or we can choose to keep our cool and think about what we can learn through our waiting. We can trust that God will help us wait well.

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**9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 | SMALL GROUP**

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**To Wait or Not TO Wait**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** “Cookout Checklist” Activity Page; “Cookout Supply Cards” Activity Page; pens; prepared cup

**What You Do:**

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each a team “Cookout Checklist” Activity Page and pen.
- Choose a team to go first.
- Ask that team a Bible Story Review Question that’s listed below.
  - If the team gets the answer correct, instruct one kid from the team to draw a card from the cup of cards from the “Cookout Supply Cards” Activity Page.
  - Direct that team to read the card and choose whether or not they want to keep it based on what they have marked off on their team’s “Cookout Checklist.”
  - If the team does not want to keep the card, instruct them to put it back and draw another.
    - Teams can only draw another card once more. If they don’t need that card either, they will put it back and it’s the next team’s turn to go.
- Direct teams to cross items off their “Cookout Checklist” Activity Page as they gather enough cards from the “Cookout Supply Cards” Activity Page to do so.
- Continue by asking the other team the next review question.
- Continue the game by alternating asking questions between the teams.
- The first team to gather all of their cookout supplies, wins!

- Ask any remaining review questions after announcing the winner.
- If you run out of questions before a team has won, allow teams to take turns choosing cards from the cup until you have a winner.
  - Bible Story Review Questions:
    - Today we heard about a verse from a book of the Bible known for wisdom. What is the name of that book of the Bible? (*Proverbs*)
    - What does Proverbs 14:29 call anyone who gets angry quickly? (*foolish*)
    - What does Proverbs 14:29 say about anyone who is patient? (*They have great understanding.*)
    - How long did King David wait before he was appointed as Israel’s king? (*more than 10 years*)
    - What kind of waiting did Joseph face? (*He waited years after being sold into slavery by his brothers. He was put in prison for unfair reasons, until finally he became second-in-command of Egypt.*)
    - Who is the perfect example of patience? (*Jesus*)
    - Who was Jesus patient with? (*everyone—friends, family, and even enemies*)
    - What is one way you can show patience this week? (*Answers will vary. Repeat this question, if needed.*)
    - How does waiting help us make wiser choices? (*Answers will vary. Repeat this question, if needed.*)
    - Describe a time you had to show patience at school.
    - What’s one way you can show patience at home?

**What You Say:**

*“Whether you chose to pause with the card you first drew and were patient until you got all of your supplies, or you decided to try to choose an even better card, this game shows us why waiting can turn out pretty great.*

*“It’s not always easy to wait patiently. It can be tough to stop and think. But God can help us grow in patience. It’s worth it to take a breath and think before you*

*react. Sometimes, it's hard to wait. But just remember that **[Bottom Line]** waiting can make you wise!"*

***[Make It Personal]** (Share about a time you had to have patience, waiting for something. Share some ways you were able to make the wise choice to wait. What helped you have patience?)*

### **Pray + Dismiss**

#### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application*

**What You Need:** Index Cards; Writing Utensil

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid an index card and a writing utensil
- Ask kids to think about something that's hard to wait for.
- Encourage them to draw a picture or write a prayer anywhere on their card, asking God for help waiting.
- When kids are finished, close your group time in prayer.

#### **What You Say:**

*"God, thank You for giving us hope and help no matter what we're waiting on. Whether we're waiting on the news of making the baseball team or remaining patient as we pray for our friend who is sick, we know that You care and will always be with us while we wait. Next time our impatience takes over and we are tired of waiting, help us to slow down. Remind us that **[Bottom Line]** waiting can make you wise. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, share with the grown-ups that our **[Bottom Line]** for today was waiting can make you wise.*