



WEEK THREE – APRIL 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Golden Calf | Exodus 32:1-35*

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

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: **When you have to wait, remember what's true.** We can't avoid having to wait, but we can choose how we respond. A good way to discover patience is to think about what's true about God: God loves us and knows what's best for us. God cares for us and is with us. We can trust God no matter what. We pray that kids remember what's true about God when they have to wait.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Ask the kid: “Would you like a cookout-themed truth or a cookout-themed dare?”
- Depending on the kid’s answer, read the kid a truth or dare prompt. (The list is below.)
- Continue until all kids have had a turn choosing a truth or dare.
 - Repeat prompts, as needed.
- Truth questions:
 - Tell us every topping you would like on a burger.
 - If you could invite any celebrity to your cookout, who would it be?
 - If you could design the menu at a cookout, what kind of food would you serve?
 - What is your least favorite cookout food?
- Dares:
 - Imagine you are a cookout food by acting it out with no words. Let the group guess what you are.
 - Make up a song about ketchup and sing it for us.
 - If your name had to be a cookout food, what would you choose your name to be? (Instruct the rest of the kids to call you this name for the rest of your time together.)
 - Pretend you’re a hot dog in a bun by putting your arms down to your side and hopping everywhere with your feet together.

What You Say:

“Well, that was certainly a fun way to get to know you all better! How did you decide if you would choose a truth or a dare? (*Invite responses.*) **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we’re going to hear about why it’s so important to choose the truth when it comes to waiting.”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week Three, we head to **Exodus 32:1-35**. Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. He left his brother Aaron and the rest of the Israelites to wait. Rather than waiting patiently for Moses to return, the entire nation of Israel rebelled. They built a golden calf and began to worship it instead of worshipping God. If only they had remembered how God rescued them from Egypt and trusted God while they waited!

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

Serving Up Truth

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Serving Up Truth” Activity Page, scissors, and glue sticks

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of 2 or 3.
- Give each kid a “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page.
- Set out scissors and glue sticks near each group for them to share.
- Direct the kids to cut out the foods on the bottom of the “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page.

- Instruct the kids to work together with their group to take turns reading each scenario at the top of the “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page, then decide which truth from the bottom best fits the scenario.
- Direct the kids to glue the cookout food/promise on the corresponding plate near each scenario.

What You Say:

“Way to work together to serve up God’s truth in each of those situations. Can anyone share the truth they used in situation 1? (Invite kids to respond. Do the same for situations 2-4. Some answers may vary. Invite kids to share why they chose what they did.)”

*“Great job remembering God’s truth for each of those situations. This is exactly what we can do in our everyday lives when facing times of waiting. **[Bottom Line]** **When you have to wait, remember what’s true.** Next time you have to wait, take time to focus on what’s true. Think of the ways that God has helped you before.”*

“What are some ways God has helped you before in your life? (Invite responses.) Remember that God loves you no matter what, and that God is always with you while you wait. God has also put people in your life to help you while you wait. Who are some people who can help you?” (Invite responses.)”

***[Make it Personal]** (Share about a time you chose to remember God’s truths when facing a season of waiting. Talk about what you chose to focus on or who God brought into your life to help you through that time.)*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Small Ball

What You Do:

- Invite the group to sit together in a circle.
- Join the circle yourself while holding the ball.
- Pass the ball to the kid on your right, and say something that is true about God.
- Instruct that kid to continue the action: to pass the ball to the kid on their right and say something true about God.
 - If the kids are stumped, offer suggestions of things they can share.
 - They can share things like God loves you, God will always be with you, God is always working for good, etc.
- Continue until the ball has traveled all the way around the circle, back to you.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

*“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.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to show and explain their “Serving Up Truth” Activity Page.