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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: “Cookout Concentration” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Arrange the cards from “Cookout Concentration” Activity Page in a grid-pattern, face down.
 - There should be twenty cards—two of each card.
- Invite kids to help you set out the cards.
 - Don’t worry if the grid isn’t perfect.
- Instruct the kids to take turns flipping over two cards to find a matching pair.
- If the cards match, direct the kid to keep the pair of cards.
- If the cards do not match, direct the kid to turn the cards face down again.
- Instruct the kids to take only one turn at a time, regardless of whether or not they make a match.
- Praise kids as they wait patiently for their turns.
- Continue until all matches have been made.
- If time allows, shuffle the cards and play another round.

What You Say:

“What pictures did you find on the cards? (*ketchup, mustard, hot dog, hamburger, etc.*) What do all these things have in common? (*Invite responses.*) Yes! You find them at a picnic or cookout.

“Have you ever been to a cookout? What did you eat? (*hotdogs, cookies, cake, potato salad, spaghetti, hamburgers, watermelon, banana pudding, etc.*) (*NOTE: Be sure to accept a variety of food examples that represent the cultural variety represented by your group or local area.*)

“Yum! Did you have to WAIT before you got to eat? What did you do while you waited? (*Invite responses, like: played with my friends, stared at the food, read a book, rode my bike, etc.*) **[Transition] In Large Group, we’ll hear why it’s important to WAIT WELL.**”

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

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.

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

Wait Well

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to name times they need to wait.
 - Prompt them with examples, if needed. For example:
 - waiting in line at school
 - waiting for your turn

- waiting for a sibling to get ready
 - waiting for an adult to get off the phone
 - waiting for a party
- Lead the kids in a variation of Mother May I? to practice different ways they can wait well.
- Guide the kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder at one end of your environment.
- Read the phrases below.
- As you read each phrase, instruct the kids to act out each “wait well” strategy.
 - **[Bottom Line] “Waiting can make you wise.** While you wait, take three deep breaths. *(Pause to demonstrate.)* Great job! Take _____ *(number)* _____ *(baby steps, tiptoe steps, itty-bitty slide steps)* forward.”
 - **[Bottom Line] “Waiting can make you wise.** While you wait, ask God to help you wait well. *(Pause to demonstrate.)* Excellent. Take _____ *(number)* _____ *(baby steps, tiptoe steps, itty-bitty slide steps)* forward.”
 - **[Bottom Line] “Waiting can make you wise.** While you wait, color a picture. *(Pause to demonstrate.)* Ooh. Nicely done! Take _____ *(number)* _____ *(baby steps, tiptoe steps, itty-bitty slide steps)* forward.”
- Continue with the strategies below or add your own.
- Encourage kids to act out their own “wait well” strategies!
 - Put dishes in the dishwasher.
 - Sing a song in your head.
 - Take five deep breaths.
 - Take out the trash.
 - Read a book.
 - Play with a pet.
 - Cheer for your teammates.
- Praise the kids for showing “great understanding” by waiting well.

What You Say:

*“Great job, everyone! When you make the wise choice to wait well, you show great understanding. We say it this way: **[Bottom Line]** Waiting can make you _____ (wise).*

*“Patience is a gift from God's Spirit. So when you have to wait, ask God to help you. And while you wait, find something good to do. Take a deep breath. Help someone. Encourage someone. God has a good plan. God will be with you while you wait! And remember—waiting can be a GOOD thing because waiting can make you more like Jesus. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** waiting can make you wise.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids a strategy you use when you need to wait well. Tell kids how practicing waiting well has helped you be more like Jesus.)*

Wait For The Lord

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; Cups; Paper Plate

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Guide kids to look up and “read” together the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Psalms* at the top of the page as you say “Psalms” aloud. Then guide kids to find the big number 27 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 27 for the little 14; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- ***Finding verses with 1st graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.
- To unpack what it means to “*wait for the Lord,*” ask:
 - Who is “the Lord”? (*God, Jesus*)
 - What do you think it means to “*wait for the Lord*”? (*to trust God, to wait for God’s best, to wait for God to help us, to wait for God to show us what to do*)
 - If kids are stuck for ideas, ask, “How did Joseph and David ‘*wait for the Lord*’? (*They kept trusting God even though they had to wait A LONG time for what God promised.*)
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Hold the paper plate and the cup.
- Say: “One helpful thing we can do while we ‘*wait for the Lord*’ is to help and encourage others.”
- Balance a paper plate on the top of a cup.
- Pass the cup and plate to the kid beside you as you say: “*Wait for the Lord.*”
- Instruct the kids to continue passing the cup and plate around the circle, saying the first phrase of the Memory Verse each time.
 - The kids will need to be patient as they wait their turn *and* as they carefully pass the cup.
 - Praise kids for helping and encouraging each other.
- Add a challenge by balancing a second cup on top of the plate!

What You Say:

“Psalm 27:14 tells us it’s best to wait for God. God wants us to be strong and hopeful while we wait. Why is it good to wait for God? (Invite responses, like: God’s way is best, God loves us, etc.) Great ideas!

*“God knows that waiting isn’t always easy. That’s why God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us. So, when it’s hard to wait, ask God to help you. And remember: **[Bottom Line] waiting can make you wise.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead the kids in prayer.

What You Say:

*“The thing to remember this week is this: **[Bottom Line] waiting can make you wise.** God can help us grow in patience. While you wait, you can cheer for your team (lead kids to pantomime), pick up your toys (lead kids to pantomime), read a book (lead kids to pantomime), color a picture (lead kids to pantomime), play soccer with a friend (lead kids to pantomime), or take deep breaths (lead kids to pantomime). You can also do one REALLY important thing and ask God to help you wait well. Let’s do that right now. Let’s pray.*

“Dear God, You showed Solomon that people who are patient show great understanding. This week, help us be patient and make wise choices. Help us wait well by taking deep breaths. Help us wait well by helping and encouraging others. Above all, help us wait well by remembering what’s true: that You have a GOOD plan, that You LOVE us, and that You will be WITH US while we wait. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share what they'll do this week to practice patience.