



WEEK TWO – APRIL 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Esau's Impatience | Genesis 25:24-34*

Bottom Line: *When you think you can't wait, think twice*

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 think you can't wait, think twice.** Through the story of Esau, we pray that kids will discover why it's important to have patience and wait. We will face moments when we want to rush and take the first choice that comes our way, but that might not be God's best for us. We pray that kids will discover that when they wait, they can experience something even better than they can imagine.

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

Opening Small Group 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:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Guide the kids to gather in the middle of your small group area.
- Call out a pair of food choices, such as “cookies or cake,” from the list below.
- Instruct kids to move to one side of the small group area if they prefer cookies and the other side if they prefer cake.
 - Add fun (and creativity) by guiding the kids to move like the food they pick. Accept any attempts.
- Direct kids to return to the middle after each choice.
- Continue by calling out a new food choice.
- Keep interest high by varying your pace and projecting high energy.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.
 - Food choices:
 - popcorn or pretzels
 - macaroni and cheese or spaghetti
 - hamburger or hot dog
 - lemonade or water
 - french fries or potato chips
 - apple or banana
 - banana pudding or apple pie
 - hamburger or cheeseburger
 - your favorite food or a million dollars

What You Say:

“Great job! *[Transition]* In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about someone who made a choice between two things. Let’s go to Large Group to find out more.”

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

Large Group Overview: For Week 2, we turn to **Genesis 25:24-34**, where we find one of the best examples of what happens when someone is not patient—the story of Esau. After a hunting trip, Esau was exhausted and hungry! And wouldn’t you know, his brother Jacob had a pot of stew cooking on the fire. Jacob took advantage of this situation and offered a bowl in exchange for Esau’s inheritance. Turns out, Esau couldn’t resist. He lost something extremely valuable, all because he was impatient.

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

Think Twice

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Lead the kids in a stop-action version of charades.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- One at a time, read a scenario from the “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page

- Invite the kids to pantomime each situation as you read.
 - Be sure to read with expression and follow the instructions on the “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page.
 - Pause occasionally so the kids can pantomime the action.
- Direct the kids to freeze when you say, “stop.”
- Lead the kids to point to their temple with one hand when you say “think” and point to the other side of their temple with their other hand when you say “twice.”
- With the kids frozen in this position, read the two choices for the scenario from the “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page.
- Guide the kids to pantomime the wise choice.

What You Say:

“Great job! You made a lot of wise choices! You waited to eat a cookie, saved your money, chose not to take a shortcut, and finished cleaning your room! When is it hard for you to wait until later for what you want now? (Invite responses, and prompt kids to think of things like: waiting to open presents, waiting to take a turn, etc.)

“When it’s hard to wait, who can help you make the wise choice to be patient? (Invite responses.) Yes! God can. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside you. Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit.

*“So remember, **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can’t wait, think (point to your temple with one hand) twice (point to your other temple with the other hand). Stop and ask God to help you wait for what’s best!”*

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:

- Teach kids to say the phrase from the NIrV, *be strong and don't lose hope* at your cue.
- Lead the kids in the responsive prayer below, cuing them to say the phrase at your signal.

What You Say:

“Dear God, Your Word tells us to wait for You.

be strong and don't lose hope

Lord, please help us be patient.

be strong and don't lose hope

Help us not be foolish like Esau.

be strong and don't lose hope

When we think we can't wait, help us think twice.

be strong and don't lose hope

Thank You, God, that when we follow Jesus, Your Holy Spirit will help us.

be strong and don't lose hope

You are ALWAYS with us.

be strong and don't lose hope

We love You SO MUCH, Lord. And we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line:

[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, think twice.