



WEEK THREE – APRIL 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- One by one, call out a series of statements from the statements listed below. (Some are serious and others are silly.)
- If the statement is TRUE, instruct the kids to pat their knees twice, and then clap their hands.
- If the statement is FALSE, instruct the kids to stomp their feet.
 - Increase engagement by reacting with disbelief to some “wacky” false statements. (*Horses don't have rainbow polka dots? When did they stop having polka dots? I had no idea!*)
- Continue play until all of the statements have been read and responded to.
 - Statements:
 - The sky is blue. (True)
 - Ketchup is purple. (False)
 - Ketchup is red. (*True*)
 - Z is the first letter in the alphabet. (False)
 - A is the first letter in the alphabet. (True)
 - Dogs and cats have six legs. (False)
 - Fish can walk. (False)
 - Dogs meow. (False)
 - Cats bark. (False)
 - Cows have two stomachs. (True!)

- Zebras have stripes. (True)
- Horses have rainbow polka dots. (False)
- Sliced hot dogs are square. (False)
- Sliced hot dogs are round. (True)
- You hear with your eyes. (False)
- You hear with your ears. (True and False — accept hear through touch for hearing impaired)
- You smell with your toes. (False)
- You smell with your nose. (True)
- God is good. (True)
- I can trust God no matter what! (True)

What You Say:

“Great job! [Transition] “You guys did a great job knowing what’s true. In Large Group we’ll hear why it’s REALLY important to remember what’s true. Let’s go learn more.”

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

When You Have To Wait

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “When You Have to Wait” Activity Page, prepared paper plates, markers or crayons, stapler and staples

What You Do:

- Give each kid two prepared paper plates.
- Set out the markers or crayons.
- Invite the kids to decorate the back, outside of their plates with the markers or crayons.
- As kids work, talk about things that are true about God. Here are some ideas:
 - God loves us.
 - God is always with us.
 - God made the world and everything in it.
 - God is powerful.
 - God is good, etc.
- Demonstrate how kids can put their plates together, and invite them to put their plates together, rim to rim.
- Staple the edges of the two plates together.
- Give each kid a label from the “When You Have to Wait” Activity Page to attach to their frisbee.
- Read the Bottom Line that is on the label out loud, encouraging the kids to say it with you.
- Invite kids to toss their frisbees back and forth with a partner, saying the Bottom Line as they do.
 - Instruct the first partner to say: **[Bottom Line] “When you have to wait . . .”**

- Instruct the second partner to answer: ***[Bottom Line]*** “. . . remember what’s true!”

What You Say:

*“The thing to remember this week is this: **[Bottom Line]** when you have to wait, remember what’s true! Remember God loves you more than you could ever imagine. Remember God is good. Remember God is always with you and that God will help you.*

“It can be hard to wait sometimes! While we’re waiting for something, we can think about the ways that God has helped us before. What are some ways God helps us? (Invite responses, like: God loves us, is always with us, puts people in our lives to love and help us, etc.)

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids something true that you remember when you have to wait—whether it’s God loves you, God is with you, God is faithful, or God has a plan.)

*“So remember: **[Bottom Line]** When you have to wait, remember what’s true!”*

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 kids into a responsive prayer.

What You Say:

*“Remember, **[Bottom Line]** when you have to wait, remember what’s true. One thing that’s true is that the Bible is God’s Word. So when being patient seems hard, remember our verse, Psalm 27:14. (Read the verse from the Bible.)*

Instruct the kids to echo you as you pray the prayer below:

“Dear God, (Dear God,)

You are good. (You are good.)

You are kind. (You are kind.)

You are loving. (You are loving.)

You are powerful. (You are powerful.)

You are the one and ONLY God. (You are the one and ONLY God.)

When we have to wait (When we have to wait)

help us remember what’s true. (help us remember what’s true.)

In Jesus’ name we pray, (in Jesus’ name we pray,)

Amen.” (Amen.)

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share one thing that’s true about God.