



WEEK ONE – APRIL 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *When is it hard to have patience?*

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.

Key Question: When is it hard to have patience? As we start our month talking about patience, we help preteens think about the times when it’s most difficult for them to wait. When we’re able to anticipate the moments when patience might be tricky, we can prepare and be ready to wait. We pray that kids will learn to trust God with the situations where they have to wait.

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: Metal Spatula; “Flip + Finish” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Set the “Flip and Finish” Activity Page cards face down on the floor.
- Ask kids to gather around them.
- Explain that they will take turns using the spatula to flip over a card (as if turning over a burger on a grill).
 - Each card begins with a different word or phrase followed by: “can make you . . .”
 - On their turn, kids will read the card then finish the sentence.
- Give an example to get kids started such as, “Playing soccer can make you . . .” then let kids offer suggestions for how they would end that sentence (nervous, bored, excited, tired, etc.).
- After all the cards have been turned over, wrap up with one more round in which everyone takes a turn filling in the sentence, “Patience can make you . . .”

What You Say:

“Those were all great answers! It’s interesting to hear all the things you came up with—especially when it comes to patience. The Bible doesn’t have much to say about what can happen when you play soccer or eat pizza, but it has a lot to say about patience. We’ll be discovering more about patience this month. *[Transition]*. **Today we’re going to hear about what patience and wisdom have to do with each other.**”

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

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - In what ways was Jesus an example of patience?
 - Why is it harder to be patient with certain people than with others?
 - If you know that someone is difficult for you to be around without losing your patience, what can you do to prepare yourself ahead of time so you don't react by saying or doing something you know you shouldn't?

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles, pens, scissors, “Patience Sandwich” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct kids to look up and read Psalm 27:14 using the Bible Navigations tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Our verse is from Psalms. Ask kids to tell you whether that’s in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*Old*) So we know it’s toward the front of the Bible then near the middle. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 14 in chapter 27. Give each kid a “Patience Sandwich” Activity Page and a pen.
- Ask kids to write out the first line of the verse on the top of the sandwich, the next part in the middle, and the last portion on the bottom bun.
- Invite kids to explain if they would agree or disagree with the following statements and why:
 - Waiting for the Lord means sitting and praying or reading your Bible. (*We should always talk to God and learn what the Bible teaches us, but we can actively wait for the Lord by using our waiting time to do something kind and show God’s love through our actions.*)
 - Patient is a gift from God’s Spirit. When we follow Jesus, we can grow in patience. If you agree, what are some ways we learn to be patient? (*ask God’s help, take a deep breath to give yourself time to respond wisely, pray for the person or problem that is annoying you*)
- Give each kid a pair of scissors.
- Ask kids to fold their paper into thirds (this doesn’t need to be exact).

- Direct kids to unfold their paper and cut along both lines of the folds, stopping about 1-inch from the top on both sides of the paper (again, this doesn't need to be exact).
- Tell kids to hold one edge of their paper in their left hand and the other edge in their right hand.
- Explain that when you say, "Go," kids will pull their paper apart on the two sides to create three separate pieces.
- Ask the kids to predict where they think the middle section of paper will land on the floor. (*Note: This is a trick question since the papers will most likely only tear into two pieces and nothing will fall to the floor.*)
- Say, "Go," and direct kids to pull apart their papers.
- Ask:
 - Did you expect the middle of the paper to fall? Were you surprised that it didn't?
 - Sometimes things don't go exactly as we expect or want them to go. Situations like that can make us feel impatient. When that happens, what can you do that will help you be strong and not lose hope?
- Recite Psalm 27:14 together one more time to help everyone remember it.
- Encourage kids when they begin to lose patience this week to remember to take a slow breath and say a quick prayer. It will give them time to think about what they should say and do. Remind them that they have the power to make a situation better instead of worse.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[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 the signs for WAIT and WISE.
 - WISE: <https://bit.ly/3RwWJYL>
 - WAIT — <https://bit.ly/3RQGNSs>

- Allow kids to practice the signs a few times.
- As you close in prayer, invite kids to respond with the appropriate sign whenever you say the words WISE or WAIT (or WAITING).

What You Say:

“Dear God, You know how hard it is sometimes for us to WAIT. We get impatient when we must WAIT in line, WAIT for dinner, or WAIT for our turn in a game. We ask that You help us make WISE responses and not foolish reactions that hurt others and us. Give us the ability to WAIT for You with patience for the things we want now. Remind us this week that WAITING can make us WISE.”