



## WEEK TWO – APRIL 2024 – PRETEEN

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

**Key Question:** *What could you miss out on by not waiting?*

**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:** **What could you miss out on by not waiting?** We will face times when we have a choice between what's good and what's best. We might rush to take the good because we don't want to keep waiting for what's best. Yet it's in those moments when we might miss out on something really great. We pray that kids will learn how to wait with the future in mind. God has something amazing planned for them if they learn to have patience.

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

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### Opening Small Group Activity

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive
- Explain that you have *a secret recipe* for the world's best soup. You are the only one who knows what can and cannot go into the soup.
- Give an example.
  - A PIZZA can go into the soup.
  - A TOMATO cannot go in the soup.
  - A SPOON can go into the soup.
  - A FORK cannot go in the soup.
- Challenge the kid on your left to suggest something to add to the soup then let them know if their ingredient is part of your secret recipe or not (see below for secret to the recipe).
- Continue around the circle.
- When kids think they know the secret to the recipe (*any words that contain double letters*), tell them not to reveal it but to keep playing until everyone has a chance to come up with a correct ingredient.
- Suggested words to draw from if needed: butter, beef, zucchini, lollipop, bamboo, spaghetti, coffee, cotton, waffle, berries, ball, bee, hammer, zipper, etc.

### What You Say:

“Did that game make you hungry? Or maybe it made you never want to eat soup again! Someone would have to be VERY hungry to eat a bowl of our soup.

**[Transition] In Large Group we'll hear about someone who was so hungry**

they may have even eaten our soup. There's something we can learn from him about the importance of waiting. Let's find out!"

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

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**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.

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

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**Take a Snapshot**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Index cards; pens

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid two index cards and a pen.
- Ask the kids to come up with two situations during which it would be wise to think twice and not act out of impulse or impatience.
  - One idea should be more serious or important and the other can be just plain silly. (For example: stealing something is serious; eating dirt, not

so much, but both are worth thinking twice about before actually doing it.)

- If needed, write additional ideas such as the ones listed below on index cards and add them to the mix:
  - Eating a frozen drink too fast resulting in a “brain freeze”
  - Cheating on a test
  - Hitting the snooze button
  - Making fun of someone
  - Telling a secret
  - Eating a worm
  - Juggling knives
  - Gossiping
  - Over-eating
  - Starting a fight
  - Walking a tight rope
  - Crossing a street
- Tell kids to write their ideas on separate index cards without letting others know what they wrote.
- Collect the cards and shuffle them together.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Lead that kid to draw a card and act out the situation without speaking as the remaining kids guess the scenario.
- Let the kid who guesses correctly go next, or if no one guesses in a timely manner, invite the kid acting to reveal what’s on the card then choose someone to go next.
- Add variety by challenging kids to begin acting out what’s written on the card in slow motion then progressively going faster and faster.
- Continue until all cards have been acted out.
- Invite kids to share about actual times when they took a moment to think twice, ask for God’s help, and respond wisely as well as times when they didn’t.
  - *[Make it Personal] Include yourself in this discussion by sharing an appropriate example of patience or impatience and how those actions played out.*

## **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:
  - What are the signs that you're about to lose your patience? Why might it be helpful to know those signs?
  - What can you do to be ready the next time you feel yourself getting impatient?
  - Why do you think waiting can be hard for us?
  - What are some situations you really want to do better at when it comes to waiting and thinking twice before you act?
  - Do you think anyone has ever regretted being patient?

## **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:**

- Lead kids in a responsive prayer.
- Invite kids to pray their answers out loud (if comfortable) or silently as you pause throughout the prayer.
- Say:
  - God, today I learned that . . .
  - God, please help me remember . . .
  - God, please forgive me for . . .
  - God, please help me think twice before I get impatient with . . .
- Lead a prayer to close out the group.

**What You Say:**

*“Dear God, we have learned a lot about patience today. Now it’s time to put what we’ve learned into practice. Please help us remember to think twice before we act. Give us the strength to wait for what is best and not settle for something we will regret later. We know that patience is fueled by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, so help us trust You as we wait. In Your name we pray, Amen.”*