



WEEK THREE – APRIL 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Golden Calf | Exodus 32:1-35*

Key Question: *What can you think about when it's hard to wait?*

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: What can you think about when it's hard to wait? Having a strategy when it comes to waiting is a great way to have patience. We pray that as kids discover more about trusting God with patience, they'll consider all of the truth of Scripture and think about the ways God has helped people throughout history. Waiting might be hard, but God's Holy Spirit can help us wait well.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to get into pairs.
- Explain each pair of kids needs to find out two interesting or surprising (but true) facts about one another.
- Each kid should also come up with another fact about themselves that is not true but still believable.
- Bring all the groups together then let kids introduce their partners and share the two true statements and one false statement.
- Challenge the remaining kids to guess which two facts are true.

What You Say:

“It was not always easy to know what’s true. I bet you were able to remember what was true about your partner. *[Transition]* **In Large Group, we’ll meet some people who became impatient and completely abandoned what they once believed to be true. As you might guess, this did not go well for them. Let’s go hear the full story.**”

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Direct the group to sit in a circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns talking about patience and impatience as long as possible with one breath.
 - They can tell a true story, make up a story, give a definition, share a verse related to the topic, tell what they have learned so far this month, and so on.
 - The challenge is that kids must take a deep breath then begin talking until they completely run out of breath. ***[Make it Personal] Join the kids in this activity by sharing insights, stories, or challenges you've faced that kids can relate to.***
- If needed, offer a few starters such as the ones below to prompt ideas:
 - When I get upset, I need to take a deep breath and remember that . . .
 - Impatience reminds me of . . .
 - A patient kid . . .
 - I hate it when I have to wait for . . .
 - Something I don't understand about God (or the Bible) . . .
 - One thing I'd tell someone about God is . . .

- I think patience matters because . . .
- One thing I know to be true is . . .

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:
 - Name three things you believe to be true about God. If you can, include a Bible verse or Bible story to support it. (*Encourage kids to think back on today's story if they can't think of other verses or stories.*)
 - How might those truths help when you're in a situation that's stressful, annoying, or when you must wait longer than you want?
 - When we mess up, what can we do to make things right or better after we lose our patience?

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:

- Remind kids that one of the best things to do while waiting is to remember and think about what they know to be true about God.
 - If we take time to focus on what's true and think of the ways God has helped us or those we know, it can turn WAITING into WORSHIP.

- Point out that when we give thanks, we're recognizing the truth that God is with us and caring for us, even when we're stuck waiting for something to stop, change, move, or get better.
- Allow a few minutes for kids to pray silently but also encourage those who are willing to pray aloud.
- When everyone is done, close with a short prayer.