



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Two large, clear plastic cups
- Room-temperature water
- 51 straws
- Duct tape
- Small table

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Road Trip Slide
- Patience Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Duct tape 25 straws together to create an extra-long straw. Make two of these straws. The extra straw is for Host to hold up.
- Fill the cups with equal amounts of room-temperature water.

- Place the water cups on top of the table and secure them with duct tape.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Two big pieces of poster board
- Thick black marker
- Broom
- Folder with papers in it (to represent homework)
- Toy shopping cart
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Write “PATIENT” on one poster board and “ANGRY” on the other.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Sons And Daughters

Are We There Yet?

Bible Story: Are We There Yet? (A Patience Proverb) • *Proverbs 14:29*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD!" *Psalms 27:14, NIV*

Life App: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Road Trip Slide

Host welcomes kids as they enter.

HOST: "What's going on, everyone? My name is [Host's name], and I'm so glad you're here at [your environment's name]. We know how to have a good time around here. If you like having a good time, fist bump your neighbor and say, 'Let the good times roll!'"

HOST and KIDS: "Let the good times roll!"

HOST: "Let's get started by checking out our Life App for this month. This one is a doozy. Let's read it together."

CG: Patience Slide

HOST and KIDS: "Patience is waiting until later for what you want now."

HOST: "Again!"

HOST and KIDS: "Patience is waiting until later for what you want now."

HOST: "One thing in life that always requires patience is a good road trip. You can't make traffic disappear. You can't pick up your car and zip through the sky to your destination. You just have to wait it out and drive. And one thing about road trips—especially during the warm months—is that you can get really, really thirsty.

"On three, I want everyone to yell out their favorite drink to have when you're really, really thirsty. Ready? One, two, three!

Hold hand to ear and nod.

“Cool. Those are all really good. How about some nice, refreshing water? Water is SO good on a road trip. That’s what we have in these two cups here. *(Indicate the water cups.)*”

SFX: Upbeat game music

“We’ve got a fun, thirsty game to play today, which I like to call ‘Cool It.’ *(Hold your hand to your ear.)* I think I hear the music now! Let me get two patient Small Group Leaders up here to play.

Bring up two SGLs and introduce them.

“Now, everybody knows that it’s super-fun to drink through a straw. *(Hold up an individual straw.)* But I think it might take a little bit of patience to drink through one of these!

Reveal the two extra-long game straws (25 straws taped together) and hand one to each contestant.

Move contestants to the opposite side of the stage, to the “mouth” of the straws. The other end of the straws should be in the cups of water, propped on a table for all to see.

“The first contestant to use their extra-long straw to finish their cup of water is today’s ‘Cool It’ champion!

(To contestants) “Contestants, are you ready? If so, drink on three. Everyone count with me. One, two, three!

During the game, encourage crowd participation by cheering and announcing the progress of the water. When the first cup of water is empty, end the game.

“Okay, okay! Looks like we have a winner! [Winner’s name], you are the winner of Cool It! How does it feel to be thoroughly NOT thirsty? *(To audience)* Let’s give both contestants a big hand!

Dismiss the contestants to their seats.

“While our contestants are sitting down, let’s have everyone stand up so we can keep the fun flowing! Let’s sing together!”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “What a fun time so far. Get on your feet and get ready to lift your voice as we sing and shout that God’s love cannot be shaken. That’s right. I know you know this, so let’s sing it loud. C’mon!

SFX: “Every Beat”

SFX: “Sons And Daughters”

Worship Leaders exit. Storyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, hello! I’m [Storyteller’s name] and I’ve got a question for you. I really want to know what you think. Do you think it’s EASY to be patient, or do you think it’s hard? Raise your hand if you think it’s easy. *(Pause for response.)* Raise your hand if you think it can be hard. *(Pause for response.)*

“Yeah. It can be really difficult to be patient. The thing is, when we want something, we want it NOW. We don’t want to wait.

“We know that we SHOULD wait. We know that’s what God wants us to do. But have you ever thought about why? Why would God want us to be patient? Why would He want us to do the difficult thing and wait patiently even if we don’t really feel like it?

“Check out this verse from Proverbs. *(Hold up Bible.)* Proverbs is full of great advice that helps us know what to do and why we should do it. This is Proverbs 14:29.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 and read.

“Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NirV).

“So patient people have great understanding. Can I get two of you up here to hold this sign for me?

Bring up two kids and hand them the “PATIENT” sign. Place them on one side of the stage.

(To the two kids) “You two look so patient. You really know how to keep your cool!

“But the verse said something else, didn’t it? People who get angry quickly are foolish. They’re not always fun to be around, because you don’t know when they’re going to explode! Now, [Host’s name] is one of the kindest, most patient people I know, but just for now, he’s going to hold this sign for us.

Host enters. Storyteller hands him the “ANGRY” sign and places him on the other side of the stage. Host has a goofy smile.

(To Host) “Ummmm, [Host’s name], you’re supposed to be angry.”

HOST: “Oh! Right. GRRRRR!”

Host makes a ridiculous angry face.

STORYTELLER: “You see, in any situation where we have to wait, we have a choice to make. We can choose to keep our cool and be patient *(point to ‘Patient’ sign)* . . . or we can choose to let ourselves get angry *(point to ‘Angry’ sign).*”

HOST: "GRRRRRR!"

Host makes a ridiculous angry face.

STORYTELLER: "Let's look at a couple of situations where YOU might have to wait."

CHORES AND HOMEWORK FIRST

STORYTELLER: "Raise your hand if you have to do chores at home."

Hold up the broom.

"Okay, raise your hand if you have to do homework."

Hold up the folder.

"Cool. Now, you probably have to do your chores or your homework before you can watch TV or play outside, right? You have to wait until all the work is done before you can go have fun."

"There are two ways to act in that situation."

Walk over to the "angry" Host.

"You could whine and complain and get angry about it."

Walk over to the "patient" kids.

"OR you could choose to be patient and keep your cool. You could choose to just take a deep breath, focus, and do the things you need to do now, knowing that you'll get to go play soon enough."

GROCERY SHOPPING

STORYTELLER: "Do you ever go to the grocery store with your mom or dad?"

Hold up the toy shopping cart.

"Sometimes it's a quick and easy trip. But have you ever gone when it seems like you have to go down EVERY single aisle and get boring things like canned beans and dish soap? Ugh! I know! It takes forever!"

"There are two different ways you could act."

Walk over to Host.

"You could choose to get mad and frustrated and say, 'MOM! Are we EVER going to leave?'" (*Nudge the Host.*)

HOST: (*Comically*) "Mom! Are we ever going to leave?"

Storyteller walks over to the kids.

STORYTELLER: “OR . . . you could keep your cool. You could remember that your mom probably wants to leave and get on with the day just like you do, but she’s trying to do what she needs to do to make sure you and your family have the food and supplies you need for the week. If you wait patiently, it would be a LOT easier for her to concentrate and get it done.”

WAITING FOR THE BATHROOM

STORYTELLER: “I’ve got another one for you. If you have to share a bathroom at home, there are probably some times when you have to wait for your brother or sister, right? It seems like it’s usually when you woke up late and you’re trying to get ready for school, and your sister is fixing her hair, and all you need to do is get in there and brush your teeth!

Hold up the toothbrush and toothpaste.

“In those moments, you’ve got to make a choice about how you’re going to act.

Walk over to Host.

“You could yell and scream at your sister, pound on the door, and say, ‘HURRY UP, OLIVIA!’”

HOST: *(Comically pound on the floor.)* “HURRY UP, OLIVIA!”

Storyteller walks over to the kids.

STORYTELLER: “OR . . . you could keep your cool. You could take a deep breath, knock softly on the door, and ask Olivia if she could pass you your toothbrush and toothpaste. I bet she wouldn’t mind. And then you could brush your teeth in another bathroom or even the kitchen sink. By the time you did that, she’d probably be done in the bathroom, and you could finish getting ready without having to get angry or yell at all.

“[Host’s name], next time, do you think you could keep your cool like [kid helpers’ names]?”

HOST: “I think so.”

STORYTELLER: “Great. *(To audience)* How about a big hand for our helpers? *(To helpers)* Thanks so much. You can head back to your seats.”

Kids go back to their seats. Host exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “If you have to wait, don’t get angry. Don’t lose your temper. Keep your cool! Sometimes you might get so frustrated from waiting that you feel like you CAN’T keep it under control. In those moments, stop. Take a breath. Pray and ask God to help you.

“Check out our Bottom Line. This is something we ALL need to remember. Let’s read it together.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

[Bottom Line] “When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool. Can you say that with me?”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line]** “When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool.”

Pick up the “Angry” and “Patient” signs.

STORYTELLER: *(Hold up the “Angry” sign.)* “If we get angry too quickly, that’s foolish. *(Hold up the ‘Patient’ sign.)* If we’re patient, we have great understanding. That means we can make things better for ourselves and the people around us. I know I want to have great understanding! I’m so glad God gives us HIS understanding and helps us to be patient. Let’s talk to Him right now.”

Prayer

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for teaching us about patience. We want to be patient friends. We want to be calm and keep our cool when we have to wait for what we want. Remind us of today’s verse any time we feel like getting angry or frustrated while we wait. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Storyteller exits. Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “[Storyteller’s name] is right. You’ve got to keep your cool when you have to wait. It’s not easy, but it’s SO worth it!

Hold up the “Angry” and “Patient” signs.

(Hold up the “Patient” sign.) “God wants us to be patient because it’s better for US. It makes us a lot happier than if we’re *(hold up the ‘Angry’ sign)* whining or complaining or getting mad about it.

(Hold up the “Patient” sign.) “Keeping your cool is also a lot better for the people around you. It shows them that you care about them. It makes everyone a lot happier if you choose to get along and wait patiently.

“Remember, keeping your cool doesn’t just happen! It’s a choice you make. It means **[Basic Truth]** **treating others the way you want to be treated** and choosing to be patient instead of getting angry.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 and read.

“Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NirV).

“God really knows what’s best for us. He wants us to keep our cool and choose to be patient! Here’s the one thing we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool. You all are the COOLEST. I know

you'll have fun in Small Group talking about how to KEEP your cool. Have a great time!"

Dismiss children to their small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.