

April 15, 2018

Key Question: What do you do when it's hard to wait?
Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

Bible Story: Are We There Yet • Proverbs 14:29
Life App: Patience - Waiting until later later for what you want now

Memory Verse:
"Wait for the Lord.
Be strong and don't lose
hope. Wait for
the Lord!"
Psalm 27:14 NIrV

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:44 - KIDS ARRIVE

Team Welcomes Kids *(Providing Time for Fun Interactions)*

Summary: There's an important patience principle King Solomon wrote in **Proverbs 14:29**. Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NIrV). How we respond to waiting shows others our character. Getting frustrated and angry doesn't make the wait any less; it just makes us look foolish

Bottom Line: Sometimes when you're waiting, becoming angry and frustrated with others is the first thing that pops into our minds. But when it comes to waiting, often there's very little we can do to make the wait any less. While you're waiting, don't make yourself look foolish by taking it out on the people around you.

9:10-9:35 | 10:40-11:05 - LARGE GROUP

"Je-sus loves me.
2 lap pats – 2 claps
Je-sus loves me.
2 lap pats – 2 claps
Jesus loves [child's name]"
shout out the name

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask: "When it's really hot outside, what do you like to do to get cool? (go swimming, play in the sprinkler, have a water balloon fight, take a cool bath, sit in front of a fan, drink something cold, etc.)"

9:35-10:05 | 11:05-11:35 - SMALL GROUP

GROUPS

(Creating a Safe Place to Connect)

2. Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy & facilitates biblical application through reenactment

What You Need: Bible; "Great Understanding or Foolishness?" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29. Read the verse aloud.
- Unpack the phrase "great understanding," explaining that a person who is patient shows that he or she is very wise.
- Read the scenarios on the Activity Page.
- Guide kids to decide if the child in the scenario practiced patience or got angry quickly.
 - If the child showed patience, direct kids to stand and give two "thumbs up."
 - If the child got angry quickly, lead them to squat and give two "thumbs down."
- After the game, lead kids to brainstorm what the kids who got angry quickly could have done to keep their cool. Ask prompting questions as necessary to spur the kids' thinking.
- Finally, encourage kids to tell one thing they'll do this week to practice patience and show "great understanding." They might suggest praying, walking away from a situation, taking a few deep breaths, singing a song in their heads, or thinking about a Bible verse. (Note: Younger kids may need you to ask prompting questions to help them along.)

What You Say:

*"Each of you can have great understanding. It doesn't matter if you're young. If you have patience and don't get angry quickly, the Bible says that you have more understanding than a grown-up who knows a lot but acts silly when he can't wait. So remember: **when you think you can't wait, keep your cool.**"*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Briefly review and then quote Proverbs 14:29.
- Ask prompting questions if needed to help kids make the connection.

What You Say:

"Proverbs 14:29 tells us: Anyone who is patient has great understanding, but anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NIRV). So when you're tempted to get angry quickly, WAIT, take a few deep breaths (lead kids to do so), get by yourself if you need to, and ask God to help you be patient. Because when you're patient, you show others what God is like, and that's a REALLY good thing! Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for being patient with us, even when we sometimes get angry quickly. Please help us learn to keep our cool by being patient. Thank You, God, for always hearing our prayers and helping us. We love you very much. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to echo Proverbs 14:29 after you. Break the verse into two, three, or four phrases depending on the level of your kids.