



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Let it Go
Patience Principle
Proverbs 15:18

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What can you do when you're feeling impatient?

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be patient with each other.

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- SUMMER IS HERE!!!!
- MAKE WAVES What you do today can change the world around you
 - All month long, we will be talking about what it would look like if we could CHANGE the world around us
 - To MAKE WAVES means that we are being intentional about what we do each day because it can have bigger effects than we could ever imagine
- BACKPACK DRIVE ANNOUNCEMENT VID
- THIS WEEK IS SUMMER CAMP
 - BUT WE ARE STILL GOING TO HAVE A TON OF FUN!!

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself."
Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

HOST

- Host
- 12 Pool noodles
- Four Beach balls
- Garbage can
- Blindfolds

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Four preselected Small Group Leaders
- Four extra copies of Communicator Script for the volunteers

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Let Go
Week 2 - This is Living & Graves Into Gardens
Week 3 - The Best Is Yet to Come & Who You Say I Am
Week 4 - Real Love & Waymaker



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Let it Go
Patience Principle
Proverbs 15:18

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What can you do when you're feeling impatient?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be patient with each other.

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MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter.

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: REAL LOVE

AUDIO: WAY MAKER

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that is happening culturally or currently, the latest video game or movie launches, and so on. Host tells them how excited they are that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everyone! June's almost done, July's coming on fast, and I hope you're taking time to soak up as much of this season as you can.

"I have a question. It's a simple question, but I have a feeling that most of you young people in this room will raise your hand and admit to it.

"Anyone in here have trouble being patient from time to time?"

Pause for literally every hand to go up in the room.



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“Yeah, that’s what I thought. Me too! Today, everything is instant. Instagram. Instacart. Insta-bility. We like our food cooked fast and it brought to us even faster!

“So this morning I thought we’d put our patience to the test! We’ve got a challenge, and I’m warning you, it’s a frustrating one—but with a little bit of patience, you might just succeed. Let’s try! I call this “The Patient Pool Noodle.”

SLIDE: “THE PATIENT POOL NOODLE”

Create four teams of three kids each. Give each group three pool noodles and a beach ball.

“Four teams. Three pool noodles. One beach ball. Here’s the challenge: you have to hold up the beach ball, off the ground, carry it to the opposite side of the room, and get it into the goal, in this case it’s this garbage can. First one to do that wins!

“Oh, I almost forgot. It wouldn’t be [name of environment] if we didn’t add a little twist.

Hand out one blindfold per team.

“One of you has to wear a blindfold. AND, any team whose beach ball hits the ground has to go back to the start and begin again!

(Optional) Oh, and one more thing . . . you can knock down other team’s beach balls. Of course, that means that you’ll drop yours, potentially.

“Are you ready? Get those beach balls up . . . and GO!

Play the game. Declare a winner, and lead the group in applause for all who participated.

“A little bit of patience goes a long way, doesn’t it? Although so does sabotage, apparently.



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “How’s everyone doing today? Have you ever thought about patience? I know, I know, probably not something you ever want to think about. But for a moment here, think about what it means to be patient. After all, it seems like we’re always waiting for something! Like this one time . . .

Share a personal story about how you once lost your patience, something like the paragraph below.

“I consider myself to be pretty patient, but I really can’t stand it when something doesn’t work the way it’s supposed to, like putting something together. I can’t tell you how many kids’ toys or desk chairs or TV stands or shelving units I’ve put together. I’m an expert shelving builder. I was putting together a shelf, like one of those inexpensive white laminated three-shelf things that you put in your room for books or finished LEGO sets, or something. I figured this would take no time at all. I’d do this and get to the rest of my day. Well, all was going well until I had to put the cardboard on the back. These kits come with all of these tiny little nails that you’re supposed to use to fix the cardboard backing to the shelves. Well, I couldn’t exactly get the nails to stand in the right spots, and I kept missing with the hammer and they would go flying. These nails should have gone in SO QUICKLY, but they were taking forever, and this project was really eating to the other plans I had for the day. After the seventh nail went shooting across the room, I did what anyone would do, and reared back and just hit the thing as hard as I could. I ended up cracking the shelf and breaking it completely.

“Probably not the best solution, right?”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “When things don’t go as quickly as you think they should, when you have to wait more than you expect, when files just take longer and longer and longer to upload or download, it’s all too easy to get frustrated and lose your cool. Waiting is the worst. We want things right NOW, but waiting, well . . . it’s just a part of life. Like, everyone knows this. We have a saying in our family when we go to Disney and have to wait two hours in a line. We say, ‘it’s part of the magic!’ with a fake smile, hating every second of it.

“So, if waiting is a ‘known’ thing, if waiting and having patience is a part of life, if it’s something that is, honestly, expected of us and we need to do it every day . . . why are we all so bad at it? Seriously, though, how can we get better at this thing called patience? How can we learn to calm down and keep our cool when we feel stuck and frustrated? Is it even worth trying to fix, or are we destined to be horrible at having patience forever? This is definitely a great question to think about—one that we can discover more about when we take a look in the Bible.

“Remember, in the Bible we find truth captured by people who experienced God first hand and were inspired to write their experiences down so others could learn from them years and years later—people like you and me! Let’s check it out!”



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TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we head to the book Proverbs. You can find it toward the middle of the Bible in the Old Testament. Proverbs is especially great for today's world, where no one reads the story but everyone reads the headlines. Proverbs is full of short, concise, to-the-point statements that offer wisdom about how to live. A few of them are about having patience, but let's just look at one of those today. Here's the first part:"

Open the Bible to Proverbs 15:18 (NirV) and read the first part of it.

"A person with a bad temper stirs up conflict.

"It can't get any clearer than that, right? You're in a rotten mood, you have a short fuse for some reason, you get mad at the drop of a hat—chances are it will cause problems. Maybe it would look something like this:

Two preselected Small Group Leaders take their place on the stage, one with a cell phone. One is going to read their part of the script like an automated voice, the other is the person trying to get through.

SFX: PHONE RING

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Thank you for calling BetaCast, the world's leader in wireless communication. Please listen carefully to our menu, as our options have recently changed."

CUSTOMER: "Yeah, right. Your menu never changes, just get on with it, will you?"

AUTOMATED VOICE: "(continuing) If you're calling about your bill, press or say, one. If you're calling about an interruption in your service, press or say, two. If you're experiencing technical difficulty, press or say, three."

CUSTOMER: "Three."

AUTOMATED VOICE: "(continuing) If you are wanting to change your plan, press or say, four. If you want . . ."

CUSTOMER: "Three! I said three!"

AUTOMATED VOICE: "(pause) You said, 'two.' Transferring you to our first available . . ."

CUSTOMER: "No! Three! Three, you, you, you robot!"

The Customer pounds the "3" button on the phone.

AUTOMATED VOICE: "I'm sorry, I didn't understand your request. (pause) Thank you for calling BetaCast, the world's leader in wireless communication."

CUSTOMER: "You've got to be kidding me."

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Please listen carefully to our menu, as our options have recently changed."



25 MINUTES

CUSTOMER: "No, they haven't, you . . . liar."

AUTOMATED VOICE: "If you're calling about your bill, press or say '1.' If you're calling about an interruption in your service, press or say '2.' If you're experiencing technical difficulty, press or say '3.'"

CUSTOMER: "(pause, saying this as delicately and clearly as possible) "Three."

AUTOMATED VOICE: "(pause) You said, Three."

CUSTOMER: "Yes!"

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Transferring you to our first available customer service representative. Your wait time is between approximately two (pause) and (pause) 85 (pause) minutes."

CUSTOMER: "WHAT?!"

AUDIO: "THE GIRL FROM IPANEMA" FROM ED CALLE PLAYS JOBIM

CUSTOMER: "No! Customer representative. CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVE."

The Customer starts frantically hitting buttons.

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Technical Support."

CUSTOMER: "YES!"

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Please enter your 24-digit serial number, followed by the pound sign."

CUSTOMER: "Shoot. Wait. I don't have that. It's umm . . . hang on a second . . ."

The Customer frantically looks around the room.

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Please enter your 24-digit serial number, followed by the pound sign."

CUSTOMER: "Hang on! I can't find it!"

AUTOMATED VOICE: "Invalid response. (pause) Thank you for calling BetaCast, the world's leader in wireless communication."

CUSTOMER: "AAAHHHH!"

The Customer chucks the phone across the room.

COMMUNICATOR: "I'm guessing every one of your parents probably knows the pain of trying to call somewhere and getting this kind of automated response. I've done it. It can be mind-numbingly frustrating."



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“OK, so the first part of Proverbs 15:18 says, A person with a bad temper stirs up conflict.

“No kidding. You probably know someone who flies off the handle at the smallest thing. Or if you don’t, you might be that person!

“So, I’ll ask you all this: what could have the customer done differently?

Take responses, have a brief discussion. Help kids think critically, and try not to censor their answers.

“Not bad. If the customer maybe took a breath, didn’t try to skip the steps, had the info nearby ahead of time—all of these things would help to get them where they needed to go. Great.

“Now, let’s see what the back half of that Proverb says.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 15:18 (NirV) and read the second part of it.

“*But a person who is patient calms things down.*

“So, in other words, take a breath, simply wait, and that will diffuse a tense situation.

“The writers of Proverbs do this kind of writing a lot, setting up one position then hitting you with the zinger on the back half of the sentence. For example, ‘A foolish person turns their back on their parent’s correction. But anyone who accepts correction shows understanding.’ That’s Proverbs 15:5. Proverbs 27:21 says, *Fire tests silver, and heat tests gold. But people are tested by the praise they receive, (NirV).* Set it up, set it up, then ZING.

“A patient person. I wonder what that might look like:”

Two Small Group Leaders take their place on the stage, one with a cell phone. One is going to read their part of the script like an automated voice, the other is the person trying to get through.

SFX: PHONE RING

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: “Thank you for calling BerryFarm Department Store, this is [your name], how may I help you?”

KAREN: “(angry) I demand to speak to your manager!”

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: “Sure thing, who am I speaking with?”

KAREN: “I already gave my name eighteen times. I’m not giving it again! Isn’t my phone number in your system?”

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: “No problem, I can look up previous calls. What’s a good number to look up?”

KAREN: “I’m not giving you my number! It will get hacked!”



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DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Ok, let's get right to it. I promise this will be the last call you have to make today. What's going on?"

KAREN: "Fine. I'll try ONE more time. I bought a vacuum at BerryFarm three days ago. I got it home only to find that it has a hole in it and it won't suck anything up. I tried returning it to the store but they said I can't do that. I tried calling you but they said I needed the receipt. I didn't keep the receipt because I thought it was going to be totally fine!"

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Wow, that's a lot to deal with Miss . . . I'm sorry, what was your name?"

KAREN: "*(big sigh)* It's Karen."

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Karen. I'm [your name]. First, thank you for your patience and perseverance. Let's see if we can fix this for you once and for all."

KAREN: "I doubt it, but okay."

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Off hand, do you have the vacuum near you? A hole in the hose is definitely not normal. Right above that hose is a sticker with a bunch of numbers on it, can you see that?"

KAREN: "Yes, it's the serial number. It's #XP9801."

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Perfect. I can see from that number when it was purchased. It says it was sold three days ago."

KAREN: "That's right!"

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "That means I can do a simple exchange. Do you want the same brand?"

KAREN: "Yes, absolutely!"

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Great! Just give me a second here . . . *(pause)* and what address do you what it shipped to?"

KAREN: "You can send it right to my house?"

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Yep. No problem."

KAREN: "How come none of the other people I talked to were able to figure this out?"

DEPARTMENT STORE WORKER: "Oh, let's not worry about that. Let's just get your address, and get you squared away!"

KAREN: "You're totally getting a Christmas card."



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COMMUNICATOR: "That was great. OK, did you see what happened? The worker could've responded with the same intensity, but they didn't. What did you see happen there?"

Take responses, have a brief discussion. Help kids think critically, and try not to censor their answers.

"That's right. The worker used patience and understanding and actually listened to what the real problem was. Instead of responding with anger right back at Karen, the worker used patience. Amazing.

Have the Small Group Leaders who acted in the scenes stand at the front.

"Can we give a round of applause to these leaders? They were great!"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's read the whole Proverb together: *A person with a bad temper stirs up conflict. But a person who is patient calms things down, (NIV).*

God can totally help us choose to be patient when we listen to His Spirit inside of us. And you know that when you're frustrated you sometimes can't back down or see a way out of it. Sometimes we need a bit of outside, or in this case, inside, help!

"Needing patience can look like waiting in line at an amusement park or for your mom to finish work, so you can go eat dinner. You may need patience when you're playing a game with a brother or sister and you just want the game to be over! Maybe you get frustrated because it seems like your least favorite class just won't end so you can get to P.E. class!

"It's easy to get frustrated and take it out on the people you care about. But when you start to feel frustrated, pause and take a deep breath. Say a quick prayer and ask God for help. Maybe even think about this Proverb!

"When you choose to be patient, things calm down."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What can you do when you're feeling impatient?" Think about the moments when it's easy for you to lose your temper. Times when you need to wait or need a good dose of patience. How can you respond in a way that calms things down so everyone can keep their cool? You'll talk more about this with your Small Group, but before you head out, let's pray and ask God to teach us to turn to Him for patience when we need it most. Let's pray."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP