



**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PATIENCE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY**

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. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, 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.

**CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for PATIENCE**

**Transformation** by the power of God's Spirit. God's Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus.

It can be difficult to find patience while you're waiting for something important—or even something that's not important. At its core, patience is about trust: trusting people to follow through . . . trusting that a process will run smoothly . . . and most of all, trusting that God has our best in mind and that God's timing is better than our own. Thankfully, as we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit is helping us grow and transform to become more like Jesus. This transformation includes growing in our ability to trust that God will be with us while we wait. As we follow Jesus and trust God, we will grow in patience.

**PATIENCE is waiting until later for what you want now.**

**HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT PATIENCE WITH KIDS**

First, areas where people struggle to show patience are subjective. For some, it could be extremely difficult to wait for something that another person might have no problem with at all. It's good for people working with kids not to belittle their experience with patience. We're all on a continuum of growth in this area. Show empathy and lead with love as kids share about their experience with showing patience while they wait. Some kids might even share some very difficult situations where they are waiting for resolution—such as their parents' divorce, unemployment, or illness. Be sure to have a plan for when kids share these sorts of situations. Take time outside of Small Group to have a follow-up conversation, and determine who else needs to know about the situation and how you'll follow up with them.

Patience can also be dependent upon where kids are developmentally. Preteens that are 10 or 11 years old might be able to wait longer because they've had more practice. Kindergarteners can only wait so long before they get distracted, start complaining, or rush to complete whatever they're waiting for. Have . . . patience with kids as they learn patience at their phase of development.

One last thing to keep in mind when it comes to patience: you may have kids in your environment that experience ADHD and struggle with impulse control. You may have other kids with a neurodivergence for whom waiting and demonstrating patience is extremely difficult—or perhaps even impossible. The way you talk about patience and what it means to show patience should be filled with grace for kids in situations where this will be a lifelong struggle. Don't equate a lack of faith as the reason they have difficulty waiting. This is not a faith issue, but rather a neuro-physiological issue over which they have little control.



# COOKOUT

It's worth the wait



WEEK  
**ONE**  
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### WEEK 1

We kick off the month with a patience proverb found in **Proverbs 14:29**: *"Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are."* When it comes to waiting, we have a choice. We can either lose our patience and get upset, or we can choose to keep our cool and think about what we can learn through our waiting. We can trust that God will help us wait well.

Bottom Line: **Waiting can make you wise.** There are lots of times in life when we have to wait. Kids have to wait in lines, for school to let out, or to take their turn on the playground. In some situations, it can be more difficult to wait than in others. We pray that kids will remember that the times when we have to wait can become opportunities for us to trust God and grow in wisdom.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**The Waiting**  
A Patience Proverb  
Proverbs 14:29

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Waiting can make you wise.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Wait for the Lord. Be strong  
and don't lose hope. Wait  
for the Lord."**  
Psalm 27:14, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Patience—Waiting until later  
for what you want now

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

### 3. BIBLE STORY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Photo album with full pages meant for 8" x 10" photos
- Photo Album Images 1, 4, 5, and 6, printed from the LG Assets PDF, cut to fit the 8" x 10" pages of the photo album
- Pictures from your Storyteller for images 2 and 3
- Photo Album Images 2 and 3, printed from the LG Assets PDF at 8" x 10" size and also made into slides (see "What You Do")
- *Optional: Tape or glue*

#### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Photo Album Images (provided)





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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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## BASIC TRUTH

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## 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 KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hi, everybody! It's so great to see you! My name is [your name], and this month we're talking about patience.

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE**

"Patience is **waiting until later for what you want now.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME**

"I know . . . I know. It's really hard to wait for something you want right now. For example, one of my favorite things to eat is [type of food] at a cookout. I kind of wish I had one right now. But you can't just eat that [food] right out of the package. You have to cook it!

"When you find yourself having to wait for something—whether it's your favorite food, or something else—it's important to remember that God can help you wait. Patience is something God's Spirit does IN us, and that can help us when we have to wait.

"I've got a fun waiting game for us to play today. Yes—it's fun . . . AND it involves waiting! If you've ever played the game 'Hot Potato,' it's a lot like that. First, let's all get in a big circle.

*Give the kids some time to form a circle. Note: If you have a lot of kids, you might want to make two or three different circles so there's a greater chance for the kids to pass the items during the game.*



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*Bring out the bin with the game items inside.*

"All right. Now, I've got this bin full of items you might see at a cookout. When the music starts, I'll pass an item to one of you, and you'll pass it around the circle. When the item comes to you, you can pass it either way—left or right. (*Demonstrate.*) But you don't want to wait TOO long to pass the item to the next person . . . because when the music stops, whoever is holding the item is out.

"If you get out, just step back like this for the next round of the game. (*Demonstrate.*) But don't worry, because you're only out for one round, and then you can step back into the circle. Make sense? We'll have a different cookout item for each round of the game.

"Are you ready to play? (*Pause for response.*) Okay—here's our first item.

**AUDIO: PLAY UPBEAT MUSIC, AND THEN STOP IT RANDOMLY (FOR EACH ROUND)**

*Note: Whoever is playing the music should not be looking at the kids as they pass the items. Just stop the music at a random time.*

*The kid who's holding the item when the music stops should step back out of the circle for one round, then come back in. A round ends each time the music stops. You may need to be the referee to say who's out . . . but keep this lighthearted and fun. (It's fine to say there's a tie and no one is out.)*

*After each round, put the item back in the bin and then pull out a new cookout-themed item for the kids to pass around. Play as many rounds as time allows.*

"That was really fun! And you all did a great job playing. You had to wait for your turn to pass the items . . . then you had to pass them right away so you wouldn't be out . . . and then you had to wait for the music to stop to see where the items would end up!

"I know I can't wait to sing, dance, and worship God with all of you. Let's do that right now!"



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## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Oh, I love it. So much fun! It's time for us to praise and thank God for being so faithful. God is good in every season of our lives—the good times, the hard times, and the in-between times. Over and over again, we can see God's faithfulness if we just take the time to look. Let's celebrate God together as we sing. Come on!"

**AUDIO:** "OVER AND OVER" / TRACK 8 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "OVER AND OVER" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Yes—over and over again God is faithful to us, and that will never change. Before we continue in worship, watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"We have a new song to teach you today. It's called 'Keep On Waiting.' Sometimes it's hard for us to wait for the things we want to happen, but God is always there to help us! As we read in Isaiah 40:31: *'But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.'* (NIV) This song is a way for us to tell God, 'I'm gonna keep on waiting for You.' Sing along as you catch on."

**AUDIO:** "KEEP ON WAITING" / TRACK 4 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "KEEP ON WAITING" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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## BIBLE STORY

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Storyteller enters, holding the photo album, as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of wise sayings. These short sayings are full of great advice that can help people make wise decisions in their everyday lives. Many of these sayings came from King Solomon.

"Actually, I've got a picture of Solomon right here.

**SLIDE: PHOTO ALBUM IMAGE 1 (YOUNG SOLOMON)**

*Flip to the first page of the photo album, which has a printed version of Photo Album Image 1. Turn the album around to show the kids. Also show it on the screen so that all the kids can see it.*

"Solomon was very young when he became king. He was worried about leading an entire nation because he was young and didn't have very much experience.

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Set down the photo album.*

"One night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream. God told Solomon that he could have ANY gift he wanted. And do you know what Solomon asked for? (*Pause for response.*) Solomon asked God for WISDOM, so that he could be the very best leader for his people. And you know what? God gave him what he asked for. God made Solomon one of the wisest people who ever lived."

### PATIENCE = UNDERSTANDING

**STORYTELLER:** "Here's one of Solomon's wise sayings that shows us why it's important to live with patience. Listen to this.

*Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 (NirV) and read.*

*Anyone who is patient has great understanding.*

*But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are. (NirV)*

"Let me read that again.

*Anyone who is patient has great understanding.*

*But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are. (NirV)*

"That IS wise. I think we've all had moments when we've been impatient and weren't willing to wait. Maybe we got frustrated or angry, and did or said something that we wish we hadn't."



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## TWO PERSONAL EXAMPLES

**STORYTELLER:** "I've had times in my life when God has helped me to be patient. There have also been times when I've forgotten to trust God and acted in an IMpatient way.

**SLIDE: PHOTO ALBUM IMAGE 2 (PICTURE OF STORYTELLER AROUND THE AGE THAT THEIR STORY HAPPENED)**

*Flip to the next page of the photo album, which has a printed version of the picture on the screen (i.e. a picture of you around the age that your story happened). Turn the album around to show the kids.*

*Share a personal, age-appropriate story about a time when you were impatient and things didn't work out like you wanted them to. (Maybe you insisted on going first into the clubhouse only to discover a bees' nest inside. Maybe you couldn't wait for the cookies to bake and decided to eat too much cookie dough and got a stomachache. Maybe you weren't patient enough to listen to the instructions for the game or the test, so you rushed in and things didn't go well. Maybe you got impatient with a younger sibling and said something mean or hurtful to them.)*

"I wish I could go back and make a different choice! When we rush into things, we can make unwise decisions. But like Solomon said, when we wait patiently, it shows that we have great understanding.

"One person who I really admire for their patience is my [friend/sibling/etc.—name].

**SLIDE: PHOTO ALBUM IMAGE 3 (PICTURE OF STORYTELLER'S FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER)**

*Flip to the next page of the photo album, which has a printed version of the person you're talking about—ideally at the age they were when the story happened. Turn the album around to show the kids.*

*Share a personal, age-appropriate story about a time when you saw how a friend or family member showed patience. Be sure to explain that their patience came from their relationship with God, trusting God to take care of them, etc.*

"[Name] really knows what it means to be patient! When something doesn't go your way, you don't just react in the moment. You stop and think about what you're going to say or do . . . BEFORE you say or do it. Most importantly, you pray and ask God to help you respond with patience."

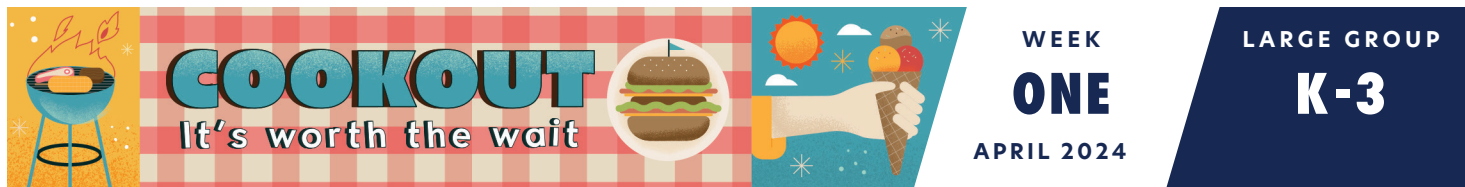
**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

*Set down the photo album and hold up the Bible.*

**STORYTELLER:** "In the Bible, we can discover stories about people who were patient . . . and also people who were super IMpatient.

"David was patient as he waited to become king.



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*Set down the Bible and pick up the photo album. Flip to the next page of the photo album, which has a printed version of Photo Album Image 4. Turn the album around to show the kids.*

**SLIDE: PHOTO ALBUM IMAGE 4 (DAVID)**

"As you might remember, David was chosen as Israel's next king . . . but King Saul was still king at the time. David had to wait about 10 whole years from the time he was chosen as king until he actually BECAME king. Not only that, during most of that time David was running for his life, hiding from King Saul. But David trusted God and waited patiently.

"How about Joseph?"

*Flip to the next page of the photo album, which has a printed version of Photo Album Image 5. Turn the album around to show the kids.*

**SLIDE: PHOTO ALBUM IMAGE 5 (JOSEPH)**

"Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him into slavery in Egypt. Then, poor Joseph was thrown in prison for something that he didn't do. He had to wait years and years there in prison until he was finally released and put in charge of the entire country.

"Of course, Jesus gave us the very best example of patience.

*Flip to the next page of the photo album, which has a printed version of Photo Album Image 6. Turn the album around to show the kids.*

**SLIDE: PHOTO ALBUM IMAGE 6 (JESUS)**

"Jesus chose to be patient at all times. He was patient with His friends and His family, who often misunderstood Him. He was patient when teaching people about God. And He was even patient with His enemies, who were constantly trying to trick Him."

*Set down the photo album.*

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** "If we're patient, we'll be able to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. We'll be able to stop and think about what's wise, instead of saying or doing things because we feel angry or frustrated. It's like Solomon said:

*Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 (NirV) and read.*

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

"Remember:

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**





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25 MINUTES

**"Waiting can make you wise.**

"When something doesn't go your way, stop and take a deep breath. (*Take a deep breath.*) Choose to respond with wisdom. Pray and ask God to help you wait. In fact, let's do that right now. Will you pray with me?"

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** "God, thank You for giving Solomon such amazing wisdom. It's true that if we're willing to wait and be patient, then we'll be able to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.** Please help us to live our lives that way. When we feel like acting out of anger, or when we feel like we can't wait, show us how we can be patient. Show us how we can live each day with Your wisdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "When things don't go the way we want them to, it's really hard to be patient. It's hard to stop and think about what the wise choice would be. It's hard to wait! But God is there to help us. God can help us GROW in patience . . . and to grow wiser each day.

"It's like Solomon said—patient people have great understanding. Because . . .

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Waiting can make you wise.**

"If we choose to put our trust in God, then it will be easier for us to wait . . . because we know that God is with us. It's like we read in our Memory Verse for this month, Psalm 27:14:

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

*Wait for the Lord.*

*Be strong and don't lose hope.*

*Wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14, NIRV)*

"Can you say that with me?

**HOST AND KIDS:** *"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14, NIRV)*

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**HOST:** "Great job! Don't forget that we have the very best example of patience in Jesus. Jesus was patient and loving with everyone around Him. He didn't get angry when people misunderstood Him, or even when they tried to trick Him. He took the time to help people understand what God's love is all about, because He SHOWED them love with His words and actions.

"It's not easy to be patient, but remember that we can always talk to God and ask God to help us. The apostle Paul wrote in one of his letters that patience is a gift from God's Spirit. In other words, patience is something that God can create IN us so that we can make a difference in the world AROUND us.

"Can you think of something that you're waiting for right now? What do you think it would look like for you to wait patiently? You know what? Let's head to Small Group right now so you can talk about that with your leader and your friends. I'll see you later!"

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**