



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.

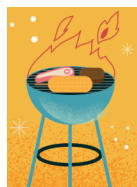
PATIENCE is waiting until later for what you want now.

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
TWO
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

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

WEEK 2

For week 2, we turn to **Genesis 25:24-34**, where we find one of the best examples of what happens when someone is not patient—the story of Esau. After a hunting trip, Esau was exhausted and hungry! And wouldn't you know, his brother Jacob had a pot of stew cooking on the fire. Jacob took advantage of this situation and offered a bowl in exchange for Esau's inheritance. Turns out, Esau couldn't resist. He lost something extremely valuable, all because he was impatient.

Bottom Line: **When you think you can't wait, think twice.** Through the story of Esau, we pray that kids will discover why it's important to have patience and wait. We will face moments when we want to rush and take the first choice that comes our way, but that might not be God's best for us. We pray that kids will discover that when they wait, they can experience something even better than they can imagine.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Can't Hardly Wait
Esau's Impatience
Genesis 25:24-34

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait, think twice.

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.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Two cornhole/beanbag toss boards, each with a hole in them
- At least two beanbags
- Two sets of burger "ingredients"—i.e. stackable objects to represent the different components of a burger (see "What You Do")
- Two bases where the kids can stack up their "burgers"—such as baking sheets or flattened cardboard boxes
- Video game controller
- Paper or reusable grocery bag (with straight sides)

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- Prop box containing:
 - Action figure or stuffed animal to represent Esau, such as a plush Chewbacca or Bigfoot
 - Action figure or stuffed animal to represent Jacob—i.e. a clean-cut guy, possibly a plush Luke Skywalker
 - Saucepan with a wooden spoon in it
 - Stack of play money



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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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, everyone! I'm so pumped to be here with all of you today. [Name of your environment] is one of my favorite places to be, because we learn really helpful things AND because we always have so much fun! This month we're talking about patience.

"Patience is . . . wait for it . . . wait for it . . .

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

"See what I did there? You had to be patient while you waited for me to explain patience!

"It's tough when we have to wait for something we really want. But God can help us to wait WELL (*deep breath*) . . . by choosing to be patient.

"I've got a fun game that will give you a chance to use your patience. You'll get to work as a team to work steadily toward your goal. This game is called 'Build-a-Burger'!

"First, let's split up into two teams. This side of the room will be competing against this side of the room. (*Reference both sides, and point out the tape line dividing the room.*)



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"Raise your hand if you've ever played a beanbag toss game—or maybe you call it cornhole. *(Pause for response.)* Well, this game will be kind of like that.

"When we start, I'll pick one person from each team to come up to the line and toss one beanbag.

Demonstrate by standing behind one team's tape line and tossing a beanbag toward the goal.

Note: The tape line should be close enough to the goal that it's not too difficult for the kids to score.

(As you miss) "Oof. I almost made it! The person who just tossed the beanbag will then go pick it up and hand it to another person from their team. That person will be the next one to throw.

Walk over to a kid from that side of the room and hand the beanbag to them.

"Make sure you don't just pick someone right next to you. Move around and find someone you don't know!

"You'll keep taking turns and tossing the beanbag toward the goal. If someone from your team successfully lands the beanbag IN the hole, then they'll get to come over here and put down one part of a delicious cheeseburger. Here, let me show you what I mean.

Bring out the two sets of "ingredients" to make an imaginary cheeseburger, as well as the two bases (baking sheets, flattened cardboard boxes, etc.). Set these items at the front of each team.

"What do you think would go first? *(Pause for response.)* Right. The bottom bun.

Set down whatever object you've chosen to represent the bottom bun (i.e. toy bun from the burger set, light brown pillowcase or towel, light brown piece of paper, etc.). You'll help the teams stack these items to create their burger.

"The next person to land the beanbag in the hole gets to put down what's next—the meat. Then it's the cheese, lettuce, and tomato . . . and finally, the top bun. *(Hold up each of these items.)* The first team to build a complete cheeseburger wins!

"Hopefully most of you will get a chance to play . . . but even if you don't get a turn, this is your chance to cheer for your teammates while you wait. And if you're picking the next person, make sure it's someone who hasn't already had a turn. Sound good? All right—let's do this. Raise your hand if you want to go first.

Quickly choose a kid from each team to go first.

"On your mark, get set, go!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Comment on the action as the kids play the game. Make sure that the kids who are tossing the beanbags throw from behind the tape line.



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If a kid lands a beanbag in the hole, bring them over to where the burger supplies are, and cue them to put down the next item in the burger (i.e. bun, meat, etc.).

Play until one team successfully builds an entire burger. Then congratulate everyone and collect the game supplies.

"Wow! Way to go, everyone! You are some talented and patient burger builders. And you know what? Up next, it's time for one of my very favorite parts of our time here at [name of your environment]. The wait is over. Right now, we get to sing and worship God together. Everyone up on your feet!"



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "I'm here for this moment when we get to praise God together. Worship is something we were made to do, and I love every second of this time! I'm so thankful for Jesus. He's the best Friend we could ever have. He helps us wait, even when waiting can be really hard. He renews our strength. Let's sing and give Him praise together with everything we've got!

AUDIO: "FRIEND LIKE YOU" / TRACK 5 FROM THIS LOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "FRIEND LIKE YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Yes—every day, we can choose to love others the way God loves us. Great job singing. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

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

"Listen to these words from Psalm 33:20-21: 'We wait in hope for the Lord. He helps us. He is like a shield that keeps us safe. Our hearts are full of joy because of him. We trust in him, because he is holy.' (NirV) God is always there to help us, even when we have to wait. Let's sing this song that says, 'I'm gonna keep on waiting for You.' Sing with me."

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): "KEEP ON WAITING" DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) Today's story is from the very first book in the Bible, Genesis.

"In Genesis, we read how God created this amazing world and everything in it. But people turned away from God and chose to go their own way. Still, God had a good plan to make things right. God chose a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family.

"This didn't happen right away, though. Abraham and his wife Sarah had to wait. After years and years of waiting, they had a son named Isaac. When Isaac grew up, he and his wife Rebekah also had to wait a long time for a family. After what seemed like forever, they finally had twin boys: Jacob and Esau."

NOT-SO-IDENTICAL TWINS

STORYTELLER: "Esau was born first, and he was very hairy.

Hold up the action figure or stuffed animal representing Esau (ideally, a plush Chewbacca or Bigfoot).

"Okay, maybe he didn't look quite like THIS. But you get the idea.

"Then came Jacob, who was not very hairy at all.

Hold up the action figure or stuffed animal representing Jacob (i.e. a clean-cut guy, like maybe a plush Luke Skywalker).

"It's pretty interesting, because Jacob and Esau actually wrestled with each other before they were even born!

Hold up the two action figures and make them wrestle, while making wrestling sounds.

"Esau grew up to be a hunter who loved being outdoors.

Hold up the action figure representing Esau.

(*In a gruff voice, as Esau*) "Oh yeahhhhh! Love that fresh air!

"But Jacob preferred to stay close to home."

Hold up the action figure representing Jacob.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

STORYTELLER: "One day, Jacob was cooking some stew.



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Set the saucepan with the wooden spoon in it next to "Jacob."

"Esau came in from hunting, and was very hungry.

Hold up the action figure representing Esau.

(In a gruff voice, as Esau) "Oh yeahhhhh! I'm very hungry!"

"Esau saw Jacob's stew and asked for some. He said:

Keep holding up the Esau action figure. With your other hand, open the Bible to Genesis 25:30 (NirV) and read.

(In a gruff voice, as Esau) "Quick! I'm very hungry! Let me have some of that red stew!" (NirV)

"Jacob told Esau that he wouldn't GIVE him the stew . . . but he was willing to make a TRADE. Jacob told Esau he would give him some stew if Esau would give him the rights of being the firstborn in the family.

Set down the two action figures.

"You see, at this time in history, the oldest son was always given certain privileges that his younger brothers wouldn't get.

Hold up the stack of play money.

"For example, the oldest son would get most of the family's money and stuff when the father passed away. And the oldest son would eventually be seen as the leader of the entire family.

"So, this trade was a REALLY big deal. Jacob was asking for a LOT (*hold up the play money*) in exchange for a bowl of stew." (*Hold up the saucepan.*)

Set down the play money and saucepan. Hold up the action figure representing Esau.

GIVING IT ALL AWAY

STORYTELLER: "But you know what? Esau accepted Jacob's offer! He was so hungry that he didn't want to wait.

With your other hand, open the Bible to Genesis 25:32 (NirV) and read.

(In a gruff voice, as Esau) "Look, I'm dying of hunger . . . What good are those rights to me?" (NirV)

"So Jacob gave Esau some lentil stew . . .

Lean "Esau" against the saucepan and make a slurping noise.

". . . and Esau gave away his rights as the firstborn son."

Lean "Jacob" against the prop box, and set the play money next to him.



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WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Esau was impatient. He wasn't willing to wait . . . and so he gave up his place as the future leader of the family.

"It's described this way in the book of Genesis:

Open the Bible to Genesis 25:34 (NirV) and read.

Esau didn't value the rights that belonged to him as the oldest son. (NirV)

"Esau didn't stop to think about what he was really doing, and he ended up missing out on a lot of good things.

"Here's what we can learn from Esau's story:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

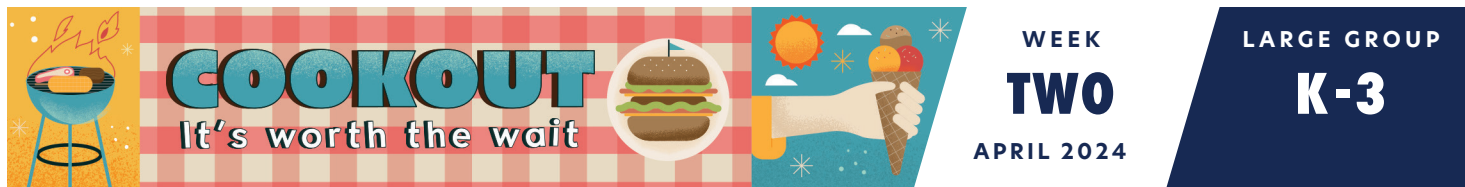
"When you think you can't wait, think twice.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us choose patience."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for this story about Jacob and Esau. There are times when it can be really hard for us to be patient. Sometimes we want to just act without thinking, like Esau did. But we know that if we stop and think twice, You can help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. Please give us the wisdom to be patient, God. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Esau was so hungry that he didn't think he could wait one more second! He didn't have patience, and because of that, he gave up his rights as the oldest son.

"Eventually, Jacob and Esau made up and fixed their relationship. But Esau's choice wasn't something he could take back. It was done for good.

"So, what can we learn from Esau's impatience?

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"When you think you can't wait, think twice.

"Think twice! Stop and ask God to help you [Basic Truth] make the wise choice, so you don't end up doing something you regret. Whatever situation you find yourself in, you can always ask God to help you wait.

"Remember, when we decide to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. God's Spirit can help us to have patience . . . even when we might think we can't do it.

Hold up the video game controller.

"Maybe you have to wait for your turn to play your favorite video game. Instead of having a bad attitude or saying something unkind to your brother while HE plays . . . you can stop and ask God to help you wait patiently.

Hold up the grocery bag.

"Maybe you're at the grocery store with your mom, and you're SO bored. It seems like it's taking FOREVER, and you just want to go home. You could grumble and complain. Or you could think twice . . . and ask God to help you be patient.

"I bet you can think of some situations in your life when you feel like you just can't wait another SECOND for something to happen. What can you do when you feel like you can't wait? You can stop and think twice. You can pray and ask God to help you.

"When you think you can't wait, think twice.

"Why don't you head to Small Group now so you can talk about that some more?"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP