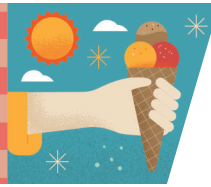




# COOKOUT

It's worth the wait



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP

**2-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

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



## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**I Keep Forgettin'**  
Golden Calf  
Exodus 32:1-35

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you have to wait, remember what's true.**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Ask the kid: "Would you like a cookout-themed truth or a cookout-themed dare?"
- Depending on the kid's answer, read the kid a truth or dare prompt. (The list is below.)
- Continue until all kids have had a turn choosing a truth or dare.
  - Repeat prompts, as needed.

Truth questions:

1. Tell us every topping you would like on a burger.
2. If you could invite any celebrity to your cookout, who would it be?
3. If you could design the menu at a cookout, what kind of food would you serve?
4. What is your least favorite cookout food?

Dares:

5. Imagine you are a cookout food by acting it out with no words. Let the group guess what you are.
6. Make up a song about ketchup and sing it for us.
7. If your name had to be a cookout food, what would you choose your name to be? (Instruct the rest of the kids to call you this name for the rest of your time together.)
8. Pretend you're a hot dog in a bun by putting your arms down to your side and hopping everywhere with your feet together.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Well, that was certainly a fun way to get to know you all better! How did you decide if you would choose a truth or a dare? *(Invite responses.)* **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we're going to hear about why it's so important to choose the truth when it comes to waiting."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



## 2. SERVING UP TRUTH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Serving Up Truth" Activity Page, scissors, and glue sticks

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of 2 or 3.
- Give each kid a "Serving Up Truth" Activity Page.
- Set out scissors and glue sticks near each group for them to share.
- Direct the kids to cut out the foods on the bottom of the "Serving Up Truth" Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to work together with their group to take turns reading each scenario at the top of the "Serving Up Truth" Activity Page, then decide which truth from the bottom best fits the scenario.
- Direct the kids to glue the cookout food/promise on the corresponding plate near each scenario.

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## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."**  
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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Way to work together to serve up God's truth in each of those situations. Can anyone share the truth they used in situation 1? (*Invite kids to respond. Do the same for situations 2-4. Some answers may vary. Invite kids to share why they chose what they did.*)

"Great job remembering God's truth for each of those situations. This is exactly what we can do in our everyday lives when facing times of waiting. **When you have to wait, remember what's true.** Next time you have to wait, take time to focus on what's true. Think of the ways that God has helped you before.

"What are some ways God has helped you before in your life? (*Invite responses.*) Remember that God loves you no matter what, and that God is always with you while you wait. God has also put people in your life to help you while you wait. Who are some people who can help you?" (*Invite responses.*)

**[Make it Personal]** (*Share about a time you chose to remember God's truths when facing a season of waiting. Talk about what you chose to focus on or who God brought into your life to help you through that time.*)



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



## 3. REMEMBER WHAT'S TRUE [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, "Memory Verse Challenge" Activity Page, and prepared plastic cups

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Guide kids to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**I Keep Forgettin'**  
Golden Calf  
Exodus 32:1-35

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.*

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you have to wait,  
remember what's true.**

- Review the Memory Verse together a few times as a group.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to gather with their teammates on one side of your group space.
- Place a plastic cup full of the strips from the "Memory Verse Challenge" Activity Page across from each group on the other side of the small group space.
- Direct each team to one by one run to the cup, grab a strip of paper, and complete the challenge that's written.
- Once a kid completes their action, direct them to bring the strip of paper with the word/phrase from the Memory Verse back to their group.
- Once they return, instruct the team to send a new kid from their team to do the same.
- Direct the kids who are waiting to begin forming their Memory Verse in order as the team retrieves more and more words.
  - Point out the numbers on the verse slips if they need a hint.
- After each team has retrieved a few words, tell the teams that they can continue getting more words, or if they know the Memory Verse by heart, they can choose to say it to you without retrieving the rest of the words.
- The first team to say the Memory Verse to you (whether memorized or by reading it from their game words), wins!

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Patience—Waiting until later  
for what you want now**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"It may have been hard to wait and find out the next Memory Verse word or phrase your team was going to bring back. But some of you remembered the words without even needing help. This is the power of knowing God's truth. We won't always have our Bibles around us when we're growing impatient, so knowing God's Word can help us anywhere and anytime.



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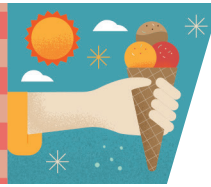
### (3. REMEMBER WHAT'S TRUE, CONTINUED)

"Let's say our verse together one more time. (Say the Memory Verse out loud together as a group.) This week: **When you have to wait, remember what's true** by thinking about how this verse encourages us to stay strong and have hope as we wait for the Lord."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal understanding  
and application



## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**I Keep Forgettin'**  
Golden Calf  
Exodus 32:1-35

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you have to wait,  
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## BASIC TRUTH

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## 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Small ball

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the group to sit together in a circle.
- Join the circle yourself while holding the ball.
- Pass the ball to the kid on your right, and say something that is true about God.
- Instruct that kid to continue the action: to pass the ball to the kid on their right and say something true about God.
  - If the kids are stumped, offer suggestions of things they can share.
  - They can share things like God loves you, God will always be with you, God is always working for good, etc.
- Continue until the ball has traveled all the way around the circle, back to you.
- Close your group time in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for the gift of patience. We know that as believers in Jesus, You have given us the Holy Spirit to help us when we wait. We know that the Holy Spirit can help us remember Your truths when we find it hard to be patient. You don't leave us alone in finding strength and joy, but have made a way for patience to be possible. No matter what we find ourselves facing this week, help us be confident in knowing that **when you have to wait, remember what's true.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to show and explain their "Serving Up Truth" Activity Page.