



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Waiting
A Patience Proverb
Proverbs 14:29

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to have patience?

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.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



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SMALL GROUP
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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, take a moment of quiet time to pray and ask God for wisdom in how to demonstrate patience with your group today. Ask God for insight into your kids' lives to know where to challenge them to grow in patience.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, rope, and timer; *Optional: blindfolds*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids where to place their offerings as they arrive.
- Tie the ends of the rope together.
- Place the rope on the floor in a line.
- Ask the kids to stand around the rope.
- Give each kid a blindfold to wear (*or ask them close their eyes if not using blindfolds*).
- Tell kids to reach out and find a section of the rope on the floor in front of them to hold with both hands.
- Explain that they will have 60-seconds to work together to form the rope into the shape of a large hamburger on the floor. They can move around and give directions to one another, but they must remain blindfolded (*or eyes closed*).
- After a minute, let kids remove their blindfolds or open their eyes to see how closely their rope resembles the shape of a burger.
- Place the rope back on the floor and repeat with different shapes related to a cookout. Kids can suggest ideas such as the following:
 - Picnic Table
 - Hot Dog
 - Spoon
 - Bottle of Ketchup
 - Potato Chip
 - Fly
 - Can of soda
- Add to the challenge by telling kids they must work without speaking as well as with eyes closed.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Metal spatula, and "Flip and Finish" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the "Flip and Finish" Activity Page cards face down on the floor.
- Ask kids to gather around them.
- Explain that they will take turns using the spatula to flip over a card (as if turning over a burger on a grill).
 - Each card begins with a different word or phrase followed by: "can make you . . ."
 - On their turn, kids will read the card then finish the sentence.
- Give an example to get kids started such as, "Playing soccer can make you . . ." then let kids offer suggestions for how they would end that sentence (nervous, bored, excited, tired, etc.).
- After all the cards have been turned over, wrap up with one more round in which everyone takes a turn filling in the sentence, "Patience can make you . . ."

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those were all great answers! It's interesting to hear all the things you came up with—especially when it comes to patience. The Bible doesn't have much to say about what can happen when you play soccer or eat pizza, but it has a lot to say about patience. We'll be discovering more about patience this month. **[Transition]. Today we're going to hear about what patience and wisdom have to do with each other.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking or painter's tape, mustard bottle, ketchup bottle, "Hot Dog" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each of the kids a "Hot Dog" Activity Page cutout.
- Ask kids whether they like ketchup, mustard, neither, or both on a hot dog.
- Set the mustard and ketchup bottles on the floor about four feet apart then place a line of tape between them.
- Explain that the yellow mustard will represent situations that are easy for them to feel patient, calm, and totally okay with. The red ketchup bottle will represent situations that make them feel impatient, frustrated, angry, and about to lose their cool.
- Tell kids you'll share a situation that is probably similar to something they have faced.
- Ask them to place their "Hot Dog" to the side of the tape line that indicates how easy or difficult it would be for them to be patient in that situation.
- Remind them to place their "Hot Dog" on the side with the red ketchup to indicate hot and ready to lose their temper and on the side with the yellow mustard for cool, calm, no sweat.
- Read the scenarios at the bottom of the page or add others that your group can relate to.
- With each scenario, allow kids to briefly share why they responded the way they did.
- Ask:
 - What made that particular situation easy or hard for you?
 - What do you normally do when you feel impatient?
 - What are some consequences you've experienced by getting impatient that have helped you be a bit wiser the next time in the way you respond?
- Direct kids to retrieve their "Hot Dog" and repeat with each scenario.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

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Patience Scenarios:

1. The dog destroyed a gift you made for your mom that you'd been working on for weeks.
2. Your hair looks kind of ridiculous today, and you don't have time to do anything about it.
3. You're so hungry after school, but you're not allowed any snacks before dinner.
4. Your little sister wants to watch a ridiculous show about puppies saving the world—AGAIN.
5. You've been practicing the same song for an hour and still can't get it right.
6. Your parents said "no" to something you want to do, and all your friends' parents said "yes."
7. You try out for the soccer team but don't make it.
8. A trip your family has planned keeps getting canceled.
9. You forget your lunch at home.
10. Your brother gets a bigger dish of ice cream than you do.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS 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



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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, foam or plastic plates, prepared snow dough, spray bottle of vinegar, trash bag, hand-wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a golf-ball-size amount of snow dough on a plate.
- Invite them to form the dough into the shape of a marshmallow then place it back on their plate.
- Distribute hand wipes for clean up if needed.
- Read Proverbs 14:29 aloud to the group.
- Ask:
 - What does this verse describe as benefits that might come with being a patient person?
 - How would you describe a person who has great "understanding"? What about someone who is foolish? (*Clarify that being "foolish" doesn't mean that someone isn't smart. This verse is referring to those who repeatedly make unwise or bad choices.*)
 - When we're in a situation that tests our patience, what consequences might be avoided if we choose to **RESPOND** with patience instead of **REACT** in anger?
- Invite one of the kids to share a situation when they are tempted to get impatient, angry, or frustrated. It can be as simple as a family member dominating the TV remote or as frustrating as being teased by a kid at school.
- Ask the other kids to push their plates forward toward the center of the circle if they, too, would have a hard time being patient in the situation that kid described.
- Ask the kids (particularly those who pushed their plates forward) to suggest what wise choices would look like in situations like the one their friend described.
 - What would be a "foolish" response to this situation?
 - What would be a response that shows great understanding or wisdom?
 - How does patience help diffuse or melt away anger when we're feeling impatient?
- After a brief discussion, give the squirt bottle of vinegar to the kid who shared, then direct them to spray a mist of vinegar directly onto the snow dough marshmallow on their plate (only theirs).
 - The vinegar will react with the baking soda and dissolve the dough.
- Remind kids that it can be tough to stop and think, wait patiently, and make right choices. But God can help them grow in patience with every situation they face.
- Direct everyone to pull their plates back in front of them then choose another kid to take a turn sharing something that is hard to handle with calmness and patience.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION CONTINUED)

- Repeat the discussion above allowing each kid a turn to share and use the vinegar to spray their marshmallow.
- **[Make it Personal] Share an age-appropriate example of a time you got impatient then ended up doing or saying something foolish that you regretted. Invite the kids to suggest ways you could have done things differently to bring about a better outcome.**
- Gather up the plates and dough, then place them in a trash bag to clean up.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- In what ways was Jesus an example of patience?
- Why is it harder to be patient with certain people than with others?
- If you know that someone is difficult for you to be around without losing your patience, what can you do to prepare yourself ahead of time so you don't react by saying or doing something you know you shouldn't?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Waiting
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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, pens, scissors, "Patience Sandwich" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct kids to look up and read Psalm 27:14 using the Bible Navigations tips below.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Psalms. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (Old) So we know it's toward the front of the Bible then near the middle. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 14 in chapter 27.*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Waiting
A Patience Proverb
Proverbs 14:29

- Give each kid a "Patience Sandwich" Activity Page and a pen.
- Ask kids to write out the first line of the verse on the top of the sandwich, the next part in the middle, and the last portion on the bottom bun.
- Invite kids to explain if they would agree or disagree with the following statements and why:
 - Waiting for the Lord means sitting and praying or reading your Bible. (We should always talk to God and learn what the Bible teaches us, but we can actively wait for the Lord by using our waiting time to do something kind and show God's love through our actions.)
 - Patient is a gift from God's Spirit. When we follow Jesus, we can grow in patience. If you agree, what are some ways we learn to be patient? (ask God's help, take a deep breath to give yourself time to respond wisely, pray for the person or problem that is annoying you)
- Give each kid a pair of scissors.
- Ask kids to fold their paper into thirds (this doesn't need to be exact).
- Direct kids to unfold their paper and cut along both lines of the folds, stopping about 1-inch from the top on both sides of the paper (again, this doesn't need to be exact).
- Tell kids to hold one edge of their paper in their left hand and the other edge in their right hand.
- Explain that when you say, "Go," kids will pull their paper apart on the two sides to create three separate pieces.
- Ask the kids to predict where they think the middle section of paper will land on the floor. (Note: This is a trick question since the papers will most likely only tear into two pieces and nothing will fall to the floor.)
- Say, "Go," and direct kids to pull apart their papers.
- Ask:
 - Did you expect the middle of the paper to fall? Were you surprised that it didn't?

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to have patience?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- Sometimes things don't go exactly as we expect or want them to go. Situations like that can make us feel impatient. When that happens, what can you do that will help you be strong and not lose hope?
- Recite Psalm 27:14 together one more time to help everyone remember it.
- Encourage kids when they begin to lose patience this week to remember to take a slow breath and say a quick prayer. It will give them time to think about what they should say and do. Remind them that they have the power to make a situation better instead of worse.



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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



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Teach kids the signs for WAIT and WISE.
- WISE – <https://bit.ly/3RwWJYL>



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Waiting
A Patience Proverb
Proverbs 14:29

- WAIT – <https://bit.ly/3RQGNSs>



TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to have patience?

- Allow kids to practice the signs a few times.
- As you close in prayer, invite kids to respond with the appropriate sign whenever you say the words WISE or WAIT (or WAITING).

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Waiting can make you wise.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You know how hard it is sometimes for us to WAIT. We get impatient when we must WAIT in line, WAIT for dinner, or WAIT for our turn in a game. We ask that You help us make WISE responses and not foolish reactions that hurt others and us. Give us the ability to WAIT for You with patience for the things we want now. Remind us this week that WAITING can make us WISE.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Rope, one for each Small Group with about 3-4 feet for each kid
- Timer
- *Optional: blindfold, one per kid*

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Metal spatula, one for each Small Group
- Print and cut apart "Flip and Finish" Activity Page on cardstock, one set per Small Group

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Hot Dog" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one card for each kid
- Masking or painter's tape
- Mustard bottle
- Ketchup bottle

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Foam or plastic dinner plate; one for each kid
- Spray bottle containing 1 cup of vinegar; one for each Small Group
- Hand-wipes
- Trash bag
- Before group time, prepare snow-dough by combining the following ingredients for every 8-10 kids. (If dough is too sticky, add more baking soda in small amounts. If dough is too flaky and doesn't stick together, add more shaving cream.)
 - 1 lb. box of baking soda
 - ¾ to 1 can of shaving cream

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Patience Sandwich" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Bibles; one for each kid
- Pens; one for each kid
- Scissors; one for each kid

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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



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

GETTING READY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed
- Before group time, familiarize yourself with the ASL for "Wise" and "Wait":
 - WISE – <https://bit.ly/3RwWJYL>
 - WAIT – <https://bit.ly/3RQGNSs>

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource:
Parent Cue app.