



Date: _____
Series: Building Christian Character
Winter Year 2, Lesson 38

Being Patient

Primary Scripture: James 5:7-11

Key Verse: James 5:8, “You, too, must be patient. Don’t give up hope. The Lord will soon be here.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids today grow up in a “gotta have it now” world. This applies not only to material desires but spiritual desires as well. Sometimes we expect God to answer us immediately and do exactly as we say. Yet, God wants to fashion dependence in us. He wants us to wait on him. Patience is waiting for God to provide. As we wait on God, we can learn patience in other areas of our lives as well.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, he has purchased for us forgiveness and new life in him. He is the answer to our spiritual and material needs. We can wait on him to provide.

Jesus in us: Just as Jesus was patient in waiting for God’s timing to lead him in his life, he gives us that same power as we trust him fully.

Jesus through us: The power of waiting on God for his provision can be evidenced to others. This is a strong witness to the world.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Props needed: a telephone (real or play), a sign that says "Patience" on one side and on the other side says "Wait for God to provide," candy bar

Emphasize the underlined sentence when you say,

God's prophet Elijah spoke this challenge to the prophets of Baal, in 1 Kings 18:24, "You call on the name of your gods, but I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire is the real God."

Elijah knew that he could call on the name of the Lord and patiently wait for God to come, rescue, and show that he is God. There is great power in calling on the name of the Lord. We begin our worship by calling upon the name of the Lord and inviting him to be here. We call upon God the Father who made us, God the Son who gave his life for us, and God the Holy Spirit who gives us power to know God.

Hold up the phone and say:

Could you call someone famous on the phone to be here right now? What would happen if you called on the President, a famous star, or even a friend that you knew? Could they be here right now? God says that, when we call upon his name, we can expect that he is in

this very room. He wants to listen to our worship and hear us tell him that we love him. God wants to show his love to us as well.

Show the sign that reads "Patience." Holding the candy bar ask the kids,

Did you ever ask for a candy bar before dinner? What did your mom or dad say? Yes, they probably said, "Wait. Wait until you have finished your meal." Do you know what waiting means? It means having patience. It means waiting for a good thing to come, but you cannot have it just now.

What would happen if we had a candy bar before dinner? Right. We probably wouldn't eat the good food at dinner. Today, we are talking about patience.

Flip the sign so that it reads, "Wait for God to provide."

God wants to build Christian character in us. One important part of Christian character is patience. That means learning to wait on God for good things. Let's pray as we think about that.

Dear God, we trust you that you have good things for us. Sometimes when we ask you for them, we think you should give them to us right away, or just the way we want them. We need to learn patience. We need to learn to wait on you and trust that you will provide. Help us do that. As we worship you now, we are waiting and trusting in you to come into our lives and fill us up with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Give an example of impatience. In kids' language it would be these three phrases:

- **"No! I want it, now."**
- **"No! My way is always right."**
- **"No! God, I am tired of waiting for you to answer."**

As you share each of these examples of impatience, knock down the patience sign used in introducing the worship theme. You might use brief examples from the everyday life of kids.

The prayer to receive forgiveness would be as follows.

Dear God, thank you for knowing what is best for us. We trust you and wait for you to give us the very best. The best gift of all is Jesus and his life for us. We admit that many times we might be impatient. We might say, "I want it now." We might say, "No! I'm always right." We might even say, "I'm tired of waiting for you to answer my prayers." Forgive us, God, because Jesus gave his life for us.

Jesus, now live in our lives to help us be more patient and loving like you. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

In the offering plate place a few seeds.

The gifts that we give to the Lord are like seeds because God makes them grow into something wonderful. It will not be a real plant, but the money can be used to help people learn more about Jesus and grow in their hearts.

Talk specifically about how the seeds can produce fruit with the current mission project to which the offering is going.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies needed: several empty 2-liter pop containers per groups of 4-5 kids

“Patience Building”

Divide kids into groups of 4-5. (Options: Select four or five kids to come forward to demonstrate, or if there are too many children and not many bottles, it might be a contest between two children. One would represent the boys and the other the girls. Adapt the setting for your optimum effectiveness.)

The object of this game is to stack empty 2-liter pop containers on top of each other to make the tallest tower possible. This is done by leaving the caps on the empty containers and stacking them bottle cap to bottle cap and base to base. In other words, begin with one empty bottle as a base. The second bottle is placed on that one upside down so that the two bottles are cap to cap. The third bottle is on it's base.

The learning point of the game comes when a time restriction is given to the builders. First, tell the kids they only have ten seconds to stack the containers as high as they can. By rushing, their building will collapse. After a frustrated effort, allow more time. With each increment of time, the children can increase the height of their tower. Then conclude with:

Patience means that we have to wait for something good to happen. Like this tower, we wait for something to be built. God is the one who wants to build something good in our lives. Sometimes it doesn't happen right away. We need to wait on him and trust him.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Part 1:

Needed: a cup of a soil, seed, and water.

Before reading the scripture, plant the seed in the soil. Apply water and wait for it to grow into a plant. (*Obviously, this will seem ridiculous to the kids. That is what our faith is like.*) Say:

In today's Bible reading, it talks about a farmer who plants seeds. He has to wait, but he knows that the seeds will grow. We, too, will have to wait for the Lord to grow our faith. We have to wait for God to provide all the help we need, especially if we go through hard times or suffering. When we wait on God, we are being patient. We are letting him grow us.

The Bible lesson that I read will talk about Jesus coming again. That is something we are waiting for, as well. We know that Jesus will come back on the last day. It will be a wonderful victory and celebration. Just because it is not happening right now, does not mean that it will not happen in the future. We need to be patient and wait on him.

Read James 5:7,8.

Part 2 (optional):

The Bible event in the Kingdom Quest curriculum today was the transfiguration of Jesus. If any Kids Church participants attended Kingdom Quest, have them recount the details of the story. Main points for you to emphasize here: The disciples were eager to build booths on the mountain for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. God had a different plan. Jesus was to go down from the mountain and go to the cross. In so doing, Jesus was showing his disciples how to wait on God, who had a better plan.

Part 3: A Story: "Why Doesn't He Help?"

Note: *An effective object lesson for telling this story is an eggshell. Poke a thin hole in the top and bottom of an egg and blow out the egg's substance to make this. In telling the story using the eggshell, the presenter can pick away little pieces of shell as the children imagine a chick pecking away the sides of the shell.*

Joshua was a little boy who loved to visit his grandparents' farm while he was growing up. Gathering eggs was a lot like playing hide and seek. It was always fun to try and find all the places the hens would lay their eggs.

Every so often, Joshua's grandpa would want to raise more hens. He would place a number of the eggs in an incubator and let them

mature. Every day they would check the eggs' progress. It seemed like forever before they saw one of the eggs move. A small hole appeared in the shell as the chick pecked away from the inside.

Fascinated by the great effort of the chick's struggle, Joshua became concerned when the chick stopped all of a sudden! He asked Grandpa what was wrong. Grandpa told him to just keep watching. After the chick rested for a while, it would start pecking again and slowly enlarge the hole. Over and over again, the chick would stop struggling and lay almost motionless in complete exhaustion. But as soon as it regained its strength, it was back at it again.

After a while, the chick's beak appeared, then its head. The struggle continued until a wing popped out. Joshua thought the least he could do was give this poor little chick some help! He had come so far. Joshua asked Grandpa, "Why don't we help the chick?" Grandpa said, "No, just watch." But it was hard for Joshua to be patient.

Even after coming so far, the chick continued to take its time, stopping to rest from time to time. Impatiently, Joshua watched as its leg popped out. He knew that its battle was almost won. Finally, the chick won its freedom! But the struggle was still not over. Skinny, wet, and scrawny-looking, the chick spent several long moments in total exhaustion before regaining enough strength to walk.

As Joshua watched this entire process impatiently, he felt it was cruel not to do anything to help the little chick. So he asked Grandpa why he wouldn't help the chick. He explained that whenever you help a chick out of its egg, IT WILL DIE. It is the struggle that prepares the chick for life. The battle gives the chick strength. The victory gives the chick determination for life.

It seems so hard to understand why God doesn't do something to help us as we carry many of our burdens. It may even appear at times that God is cruel and does not care about our problems. But there is a very important reason why God lets us wrestle beneath our burdens. The struggle strengthens our faith and prepares us for greater challenges in the future.

From time to time, we will feel like we just cannot go on. That is the time we draw strength from God's Word. Worshiping together every weekend gives us the support we will need to keep up the fight. Whenever we fail to hear God's powerful words of forgiveness, encouragement, and promise, then the struggle doesn't make any sense!

Keep a proper perspective as you struggle. God has a purpose for all your efforts! He wants you to LIVE – ETERNALLY!

Part 4: A Story: "Seeing Far Enough Ahead"

Optional object: fishing pole

Joshua had looked forward all week to going fishing with his grandpa. It was one of the best things about his visit to the farm. The day they had planned to fish was Saturday morning.

Joshua was up before the sun even rose. He quickly dressed and went downstairs to the breakfast table. There he found Grandpa, quietly looking out the window. His heart sank. Peering outside he noticed that it was raining. Not just a little rain, but a lot of rain. It did not seem fair. Why would it rain on Saturday when they were to go fishing? Couldn't God have made it rain on another day?

He looked up at his grandpa. "Can't we go fishing anyway? It's just a little bit of rain." His grandpa smiled back at him, "No. It's too wet and too muddy."

"Then I hate the rain! It's not fair," Joshua complained.

"Well," said his grandpa, "we need the rain here to help our crops grow. It's a good thing that we are getting rain."

"Why did God have to send it today?" asked Joshua. "He knew we were supposed to go fishing." With that Joshua plopped down at the kitchen table. He folded his arms and said it again, "I hate this rain! God, I don't think you are fair."

His grandpa pulled up a chair next to him. "Joshua," he said, "maybe there is something that God wants to show you by giving you rain today. Maybe he wants to show you how to wait for him and be patient. Who knows? Maybe something else good will happen."

"How could anything better than fishing happen?" sighed Joshua. With that attitude, he moped around the house all day long. Constantly, he was checking out the window to see if the rain had stopped. It seemed that it never would, and his day was ruined.

Grandpa went to the barn to do his chores and came back after lunch. It looked like the sun had broken through the clouds and the rain had stopped. He asked Joshua if he was still ready to go fishing. Even though Joshua was still in a bad mood, he said, "Well, I suppose it couldn't hurt even if it is just for a little bit."

An hour later, Joshua and his grandpa had returned from fishing. With them was a string of fourteen large fish. Never had the fishing been so great. The fish bit almost every time Joshua threw his line

into the pond. His grandpa explained that, often after rain, the fish get ready to eat anything because lots of food gets washed into the pond. Because of the rain, the fishing was so good.

Grandpa looked at Joshua and said, “Do you think this was even better than fishing this morning would have been?”

“I guess you’re right, Grandpa,” said Joshua. “I guess God really did know what he was doing. I just couldn’t see far enough ahead to see how wonderful it would be.”

Boys and girls, the next time we think God isn’t listening to us or doesn’t care, we had better think again. He may be asking us to wait on him because he has a better idea in mind.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids tell about a time something that seemed to be bad actually turned out for good.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- telephone
- a sign that says “Patience” on one side, on the other side of the sign it says “Wait for God to provide”
- candy bar

Offering:

- a few seeds

Learning Game:

- several empty 2-liter pop containers per groups of 4-5 kids

Bible Reading:

- soil
- seed
- water
- egg shell. This can be made by poking a thin hole in the top and bottom of an egg and blowing out the egg’s substance.
- fishing pole (*optional*)

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