



APRIL THEME

ROAD TRIP

Some things are worth the wait

BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 1:6—2:1

Baby on Board | Hannah Prays for a Baby

Spark Story Bible

Hannah Prays for a Child pg. 118-121

BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it

MEMORY VERSE

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

LIFE APP

Patience | Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **PATIENCE** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: When is it hard to have patience? Often kids don't plan on being impatient; they just find themselves in situations where their patience is tried. As we get older though, we're able to understand the sorts of moments where we might find ourselves needing a good dose of patience. We hope that families start to discover the times they might need patience and figure out what God can help them do about it.

For our first week focused on patience, we look to **1 Samuel 1:6—2:1** where we discover the story of Hannah. She had waited years for a child. Rather than become frustrated and angry toward God, she prays and tells God all about it. When God answers her prayer, she gives her son back to God. God honored her waiting and blessed her with even more children.

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it. It's important for us all to remember that talking to God about waiting will help us stay patient through whatever circumstance we might face. God may not change our circumstance, but God will give us the strength to keep waiting well.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

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

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray that kids would walk away from today with tangible ways to practice patience when it's hard. Pray that kids would understand that God wants to help them and wants to hear from them when they're struggling. Pray that kids understand that while God's answers might not always look like what they expect, God is present with them nonetheless.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: "Birthday" coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out "Birthday" coloring pages and crayons
- As kids color, ask questions such as:
 - When is your birthday?
 - How do you like to celebrate your birthday?
 - When your birthday gets close, is it hard for you to wait?



•• **WHAT TIME IS IT, MR. FOX?**

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Play “What Time Is It, Mr. Fox?”
- Choose a volunteer to be Mr. (or Miss) Fox.
- Guide the other kids to line up at one end of your environment while Mr. Fox stands at the other end with his back to the group.
- At your signal, the group calls out, “What time is it, Mr. Fox?”
- If Mr. Fox answers a time that is an even hour (5:00, 10:00, 1:00, etc.), everyone takes that many steps forward. The players may take any size step they choose.
- If Mr. Fox answers, “It’s time to chase you!” he turns around and chases the other players back to the start line. Anyone he catches sits out.
- Variation: Guide kids to move different ways for each round: baby step, kangaroo hop, tiger crawl (on hands and feet with hips low), etc.

What You Say: “Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? What was it? Was it hard to wait? What did you do while you waited? [Transition] In our Bible story today, we’ll hear/we heard about a woman who had to wait a looong time for something she really wanted.

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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

SPECIAL NOTE: This month’s activities are designed to give kids opportunities to practice patience through turn taking, delayed gratification, fine-motor challenges, and other patience-building strategies. As you help the kids practice patience, be sure to model patience yourself and provide plenty of praise for patient behavior. (“Wow, I like the way you waited quietly until your partner finished their turn. It’s fun to play with patient friends like you!” “Thank you for waiting quietly and not interrupting when I was helping Sara. You were very patient!”)

•• **WAIT FOR THE LORD** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Wait for the Lord” activity pages, crayons, Spark Story Bible

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Wait for the Lord” activity page and set out crayons where everybody can reach them.
- Guide kids to point to the words as you read them aloud together. Emphasize the fact that we can wait for God because we can trust God no matter what!
- Briefly review that Hannah waited a long time for a baby, but as she waited, she trusted God.
- Tell your group that you are going to read the Bible story about Hannah from the Spark Story Bible and that they need to wait for you to finish the story before coloring their activity page.



- Read “Hannah Prays for a Child,” from pages 118-121 in the Spark Story Bible.
- When you are finished, allow kids to color their activity page however they choose.
- As kids create, encourage them to share times when they may need to trust God while they wait.
- If kids are stuck for ideas, ask them if they’ve ever had to wait for their family to get a pet, for their mom or dad to get a job, for someone to get better if they’ve been sick, or for someone to know Jesus.
- Remind kids that no matter what they’re waiting for, they can trust God and talk to God about it.

What You Say: “Hannah had to wait a long time for something she wanted more than anything in the world: a baby! Hannah waited so long that she became really sad. But when Hannah talked to God about how she felt, she wasn’t as sad anymore. God heard her prayer and helped her feel better. **[Make It Personal]** *(Share a child-appropriate time when you were waiting for something and talked to God about it. Tell how God helped you wait.)*

“So if you ever feel sad, angry, or upset about having to wait for something, talk to God about it. Tell God how you feel. God loves and wants to help you. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** **When you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**”

•• **WAIT! WAIT! (DO) TELL ME!** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Story Pictures” and “Hannah’s Story” activity pages

What You Do:

- Show kids the “Story Pictures” and invite them to identify each person.
- Set the pictures on your small group table and guide kids to stand around the table.
- Read “Hannah’s Story,” directing kids to move around the table and stand by each person’s picture whenever they hear you say that person’s name.
- Variation: Guide kids to do a motion for each person when they stand by their picture:
 - Hannah: pantomime brushing long hair
 - Eli: place hand over heart
 - Baby: pantomime rocking a baby
 - Samuel: stand on knees

What You Say: “Hannah knew that God was the only One who could help her wait for the baby she wanted so much. Maybe you’re having a hard time waiting for something. Maybe you’re waiting for your dad to get a job, for your mom to get well, for your family to get a pet, or for your brother or sister to be nice to you more often. Maybe you’re sad or mad about having to wait. It’s okay. God loves you, so tell God how you feel. God can help you feel better and help you be patient. So no matter what you’re waiting for, remember: **[Bottom Line]** **When you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**”

•• **BABY, BABY** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask prompting questions to briefly review the Bible story.
- Remind kids of today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line]** **When you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it,** and guide them to repeat it after you a few times.
- Teach/review the song “Jesus Loves Me” to your group.
- Show kids how to pantomime rocking a baby in their arms.



- Guide your group to rock the baby while singing “Jesus Love Me.”
- After singing through the song, kids should stop rocking. Ask for a volunteer to say the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**
- Sing and rock again. Ask for another volunteer to recite the bottom line.
- Continue until everyone who wants a turn has had a chance to say the Bottom Line.

What You Say: “You guys did a great job singing and rocking the baby and patiently waiting for everyone to have a turn saying our bottom line. In our Bible story today, Hannah waited a long time for a baby, didn’t she? She waited so long that she became very sad.

“Sometimes when we’re waiting for something, all we can do is think about the thing we’re waiting for! **[Make It Personal] I remember when I was a kid, I really wanted [insert something that you waited for as a kid, such as a pet, a responsibility, a sibling, etc.]** You might feel like there’s nothing you can do except to wait. But it helps to talk to someone about how hard it is to wait. **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.”**

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit silently and think of something that they’re waiting for. It might be a pet, learning how to read, for their mom or dad to get a job, for someone to get well, or for someone to know Jesus.
- Lead kids in prayer, asking God to help the kids trust God while they wait.

What You Say:

“Let’s pray. Dear God, thank you that you always listen to us. Thank you that you want us to talk to you when we are sad, mad, or upset about waiting. Thank you that you want us to tell you how we feel because you love us and want to help us. Please help us remember to talk to you when we’re having a hard time being patient. Help us remember that we can always trust you while we wait. We love you, God. Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, guide kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**