



APRIL THEME

ROAD TRIP

Some things are worth the wait

BIBLE STORY

Proverbs 14:29

Are We There Yet? A Patience Proverb

BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait, keep your cool

MEMORY VERSE

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

LIFE APP

Patience | Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated...and with Jesus' help, I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

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

Key Question: What do you do when it's hard to wait? Having a plan for your impatience is important. Rather than just letting your frustration get to you, you can know the steps you can take to make sure that you don't lose your cool. We want families to discover how they can make patience a priority.

There's an important patience principle King Solomon wrote in **Proverbs 14:29**: *Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NIV).* How we respond to waiting shows others our character. Getting frustrated and angry doesn't make the wait any less; it just makes us look foolish.

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, keep your cool. Sometimes when you're waiting, becoming angry and frustrated with others is the first thing that pops into our minds. But when it comes to waiting, often there's very little we can do to make the wait any less. While you're waiting, don't make yourself look foolish by taking it out on the people around you.

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 for kids to develop the self-control to keep their cool in patience-testing situations. Ask God for insight into their lives so that you may be able to give kids practical ideas for how to wait when it's difficult.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids about a time they lost their temper or someone lost their temper with them. What happened? How did they feel? Were they able to make it right with whoever was affected?

•• FOLLOW MY LEAD

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



What You Need: “Follow My Lead” activity page, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the “Follow My Lead” activity page.
- Instruct them to follow the directions on the bottom of the page. *(The last direction tells them not to start until you give the “okay.”)*
- Wait a couple minutes for kids to read directions. The kids who read the directions thoroughly should end up patiently waiting for you to tell them it’s time to start drawing.
- If any kids start drawing before you tell them it’s time to start, wait a minute or two to see if they notice that some kids haven’t started yet.
- Keep it lighthearted, but point out the last line of instructions (#8) to the kids who started drawing. See how they react!
- Then give the entire group the “go-ahead” to follow the instructions.

What You Say: “You guys did a great job of following the instructions. It was funny to realize you had missed something, wasn’t it? The pictures you came up with look really good. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to talk/we talked about a book with a lot of instructions that, if you follow them, will help things go smoothly for you in life.**”

[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.

●● **DEEP BREATHS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Balloon

What You Do:

- Talk about how when we feel angry or frustrated, a great thing to do is take deep breaths and blow them out.
- Just like the verse we learned about in worship, we need to practice being patient. Ask if any one can tell you what it means to have ‘great understanding’? How about what the word ‘foolish’ means?
- Share each of these situations *(or add your own)* where you might want to lose your cool and, after each one, blow some air into the balloon. Encourage kids to take deep breaths with you as you finish reading the scenarios...
 - Your little brother spills milk all over the project you have been working hard on all week.
 - The soccer game you are looking forward to playing gets rained out.
 - You ask for spaghetti for dinner, but instead your dad makes meatloaf.
 - You have been waiting in line to ride your favorite roller coaster when you see some people ahead of you cut in the line.
 - You can’t find your favorite shirt and you wanted to wear it to school today.
- Talk about how one good way to keep our cool is to take deep breaths and pray.
- If we do that, God will help us let go of our frustrations and keep our cool, so we don’t say or do something that might hurt ourselves or someone else.
- Let go of the balloon and watch it “relax” back into its original shape.

What You Say: “Taking deep breaths and talking to God can help us to keep our cool when we are in a frustrating situation. Almost every day we are faced with a time we want to yell or blow up and get mad, but we can’t do that because losing our cool would



only make a bad situation worse. **[Make It Personal]** *(Talk about a time when you thought you were going to lose your cool. What happened? Were you able to calm down? If so, what helped? If you 'blew your lid,' tell kids about it, in an age-appropriate way.)* So, the next time you get frustrated, think about this balloon and how we took deep breaths and gave our frustrations to God because it's important that **[Bottom Line]** **when you think you can't wait, keep your cool."**

●● **PATIENCE!** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: "Patience!" game board, "Patience!" cards, dice, tokens

What You Do:

- Explain that this game is like Chutes and Ladders®.
- To begin, each person sets his/her token on the page in the space labeled with the number one.
- The youngest player goes first. She rolls the die and moves her token that number of spaces.
- If she lands on a "Green Light" space, she picks up a "Green Light" card, shows it to her group, and tells what's happening in the picture.
—She then moves her token up the arrow.
- If she lands on a "Red Light" space, she picks up a "Red Light" card, shows it to her group, and tells what's happening in the picture.
—She then slides her token down the arrow.
- The game ends when every child reaches the finish.
- The card descriptions are below, in case kids get stuck discerning what's happening in the pictures.
- Invite kids to imagine (*aloud*) what the people in the "Red Light" cards could have done to show patience.

Red Light cards:

- Girl yelling at a little brother for breaking a toy.
- Boy making an angry face at a classmate who's accidentally knocked something off his desk.
- Mom shaking head "no" to her daughter getting candy from a machine. Girl is begging.
- Boy yelling at a pet puppy who is chewing on one of his toys.

Green Light cards:

- Child cutting in line. Boy looks surprised, but not angry.
- Little sister grabs last cookie on the tray. Big sister shows disappointment, but no anger.
- Girl accidentally stepping on another girl's toe. When girl comes to apologize, other girl extends forgiveness.
- Younger siblings playing a video game. Older brother wants to play too, but he sits on a chair and looks at a book while he waits.

What You Say: "When I get angry, it can be easy for me to make foolish choices. **[Make It Personal]** *(Share an age-appropriate story about a time when you got angry and made a foolish choice. Also tell the consequences of your choice and how it hurt you, others, or your relationships.)*

"When are times that you might get angry quickly? *(When someone's not sharing with me; when people cut in front of me; when people don't follow the rules; when someone says or does something mean.)* Does God want you to get angry quickly? No! God wants you to make the wise choice to be patient. So how can you be patient when _____? *(Invite kids to think of ways they can be patient in the situations they named. They might take a few deep breaths, listen to music, sing a song, play a game, etc.)*

"So when you're tempted to get angry quickly, stop, take a few deep breaths *(lead kids to do so)*, and ask God to help you be patient. *(Say a quick prayer for patience, leading kids to echo you.)* Because when you're patient, you show others what God is like, and that's a REALLY good thing! So remember: **[Bottom Line]** **When you think you can't wait, keep your cool."**



●● **DEEP BREATH!** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Look up this month's memory verse (*Psalm 27:14*). Practice saying the memory verse together as a group.
- Instruct kids to take a deep breath and say the whole memory verse as they exhale without taking another breath.
- Try it several times as a group.
- Then give kids an opportunity to volunteer to say the memory verse individually all in one breath.

What You Say: "That was pretty funny to listen to! Bonus points for those of you who also managed to say the verse reference while spitting all of that out! Even though we said it in a silly way, this verse has a very important message: we need to wait on the Lord and be strong and hopeful while we are waiting. In other words, **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, keep your cool.** This week you might face a situation where you have to wait in line, or wait for someone else, or wait for something you want to do, but in all of those times we have to remember that waiting is sometimes just a fact of life and the best thing to do is just get through it well."

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:

- Ask kids what makes them feel calm or how they calm themselves down when they get angry or upset.

What You Say: "God, thank you that you taught us in the Bible how to keep calm and be patient because you knew all along that we would need to know that. Please give us patience this week when we are in situations where we feel frustrated or stressed or like we just want to blow up. Also, if we see each other this week, remind us to tell one another: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.**"

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, hand out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up.