



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 we'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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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?

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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.

●● **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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:

- Choose a volunteer and ask him to take a deep breath then begin talking about the topic of patience or impatience until he runs out of breath.
—He can tell a true story, make up a story, give a definition, share a verse related to the topic, and so on.
- If needed, offer a few starters such as the ones below to prompt ideas:
 1. I need to take a deep breath and remember to be patient when...
 2. Impatience reminds me of...
 3. Something I don’t understand about patience is...
 4. I wasn’t very patient when...
 5. I think patience matters because...

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Review today’s “Patience Proverb” by reading Proverbs 14:29 out loud from the Bible.



• Challenge the students to do a “20-Words-in-10-Seconds Summary” of today’s worship time by going around the circle and giving single-word statements about things they remember (*names, feelings, actions, places, etc.*). Their combined words don’t have to form sentences, just thoughts.

- Give students a moment to think of some words they can use in the game and then choose a volunteer to begin.
- When you’ve gone around the circle (*more than once if necessary*), point out how quickly ten seconds went by, reminding them that, if we’re not careful, it only takes that amount of time for us to lose our cool, get angry, and do something foolish.

What You Say: “When you start to feel angry or impatient, unless you make a choice to hold your temper, you’re liable to make some foolish choices. Practicing patience will help you avoid an argument or give you time to cool down and make a wiser, better choice about what you should say and do.”

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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 a few of the following questions...
 - 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 and not lose your patience, how is that helpful?
 - Explain why you agree or disagree with the following statements:
 - ...A patient person—a person who “waits for God”— is more fun to be around.
 - ...When I lose my temper, it’s not always my fault.
 - ...My friends know that I don’t mean what I say when I’m angry, which makes it okay.
- What are some ways that impatience can hurt us? How does it hurt others?
- Without using names, tell about a time when a friendship ended because someone got mad and couldn’t chill out. What would it take for them to be friends again?

•• **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Set out the markers and give everyone a piece of paper.
- Remind kids about the verse they heard about today in worship: Proverbs 14:29.
- Tell them that there are many other verses in the Bible that challenge us to be patient and not lose our cools.
- Assign kids a verse from the list at the bottom of the page. (*For your quick reference, each verse is printed in full using the NIV translation.*)
- Tell everyone to write the verse reference on the back of his paper and then look it up in a Bible.
- Using the markers, let them create a simple road sign or billboard that illustrates what they think is the main point of their verse. Suggest that they identify a key word and replace it with a picture that represents that word.
- When finished, let everyone share their signs and the verse that goes with it. Ask them how they can live out that verse this week.
- Close the activity by reminding students that if we call ourselves followers of Jesus, our lives should show it. We don’t wear a “sign” that says we’re following Christ, but when we keep our cool with someone when they annoy us or when they let us down, we become walking, talking, living signs that demonstrate God’s kind of patience.

Galatians 5:22-23—“*But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful*”



and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.”

Colossians 3:12—*“You are God’s chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient.”*

Psalms 40:1—*“I was patient while I waited for the Lord. He turned to me and heard my cry for help.”*

Proverbs 14:29—*“Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish he is.”*

Proverbs 15:18—*“A man who burns with anger stirs up fights. But a person who is patient calms things down.”*

Ephesians 4:2—*“Don’t be proud at all. Be completely gentle. Be patient. Put up with one another in love.”*

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 to name some things that often try their patience and cause them to lose their cool.
- After each person shares, let those who identify with that example raise their hand.
—Pray (*or invite a volunteer to pray*) a short prayer for God’s help in that area this week.
- Repeat the process several more times with different types of situations where patience can be a struggle.
- If your students have difficulty coming up with suggestions, draw from the following examples and prayers.
—Patience with family members. (*Dear God, help us show your love to our families by being patient with them the way you are patient with us.*)
—Losing our cool with kids at school. (*Dear God, help us to be good examples of keeping our cool with our friends at school. Help us to not say or do things we will regret later.*)
—Getting impatient with ourselves when we mess up. (*Dear God, help us live for you and do our best. When we make mistakes, help us come to you right away and ask forgiveness.*)
—Getting upset when we have to wait for something we really want. (*Dear God, help us remember that you love us and are always in control.*)
—Forgetting to be patient until it’s too late. (*Dear God, help us to ask forgiveness when we lose our cool.*)

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