



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.

•• 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: "When it's really hot outside, what do you like to do to get cool? (*go swimming, play in the sprinkler, have a water balloon fight, take a cool bath, sit in front of a fan, drink something cold, etc.*)"

•• KEEP YOUR COOL

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



What You Need: “Keep Your Cool” cards

What You Do:

- You can adjust the number of picture pairs you give each group based on the kids’ skill level. Younger kids might be able to handle six pairs while older kids might master eight.
- Help kids to set the cards face down in a grid.
- Guide kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time, Concentration™-style, to find a match.
- Decrease competition by instructing kids to take only one turn at a time, regardless of whether or not they make a match.

What You Say: “What pictures do you see on your cards? (*a sprinkler, a pool, an iced drink, etc.*) What do all those things have in common? (*They’re all things that help us cool down when we’re hot.*) Yes, they all help you keep cool.

“There’s another meaning for the phrase, ‘Keep your cool.’ Do you know what it is? (*Pause.*) Yes, to ‘keep your cool’ means to keep yourself from getting angry quickly. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard what the Bible says about keeping our cool.**”

[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.

●● **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. Lead kids to point to this space.
- 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):* You could say, "Dear Lord, *(Dear Lord)* please help me to be patient *(please help me to be patient)* Amen. *(Amen.)* 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."**

●● **THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible, "Great Understanding or Foolishness?" activity page

What You Do:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29. Read the verse aloud.
- Unpack the phrase "great understanding," explaining that a person who is patient shows that he or she is very wise.
- Read the scenarios on the "Great Understanding or Foolishness" activity page.
- Guide kids to decide if the child in the scenario practiced patience or got angry quickly.
—If the child showed patience, direct kids to give two "thumbs up."
—If the child got angry quickly, lead them to give two "thumbs down."
- After the game, lead kids to brainstorm what the kids who got angry quickly could have done to keep their cool. Ask prompting questions as necessary to spur the kids' thinking.
- Finally, encourage kids to tell one thing they'll do this week to practice patience and show "great understanding." They might suggest praying, walking away from a situation, taking a few deep breaths, singing a song in their heads, or thinking about a Bible verse. *(Note: Younger kids may need you to ask prompting questions to help them along.)*

What You Say: "Each of you can have great understanding. It doesn't matter if you're young. If you have patience and don't get angry quickly, the Bible says that you have more understanding than a grownup who knows a lot but acts silly when he can't wait. So remember, **[Bottom Line]** **when you think you can't wait, keep your cool."**

●● **WAIT** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "WAIT" cards, straws

What You Do:

- Scatter the "WAIT" cards, in random order, in the center of your small group table.



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

APRIL
08/11
2018

GRADE K-1
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

- Give each child a straw.
- At your signal, lead kids to take turns placing the end of the straw close to a card, sucking on the straw to “vacuum” the card to the straw, and then moving the card to their table spot while sucking on the straw to keep hold of the card.
- If a card falls as the child attempts to move it, simply guide him to use the straw to pick it up again.
- When your group has gathered all the cards, guide kids to work together to put them in order.
- Read the verse aloud with the kids, guiding them to point to the words on the cards as you read.

What You Say: “There are lots of things you wait for. You wait for a red light to turn green...but does it turn green? *(Yes!)* You wait for your birthday to come...but does it finally come? *(Yes!)* You wait for Christmas to come...and does it come? *(Yes!)*”

“Psalm 27:14 tells us to WAIT for God because GOD WILL ALWAYS COME! God is faithful, and God keeps promises. God loves you! Now, God might not always answer our prayers in a way we wanted or thought, but God loves us and knows what is best for each of us. So **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, keep your cool** and ask God to help you WAIT for what’s best.”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: A “WAIT” sign from the previous activity

What You Say: “Proverbs 14:29 tells us: *Anyone who is patient has great understanding, but anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NirV).* So when you’re tempted to get angry quickly, WAIT (*hold up the sign*), take a few deep breaths (*lead kids to do so*), get by yourself if you need to, and ask God to help you be patient. Because when you’re patient, you show others what God is like, and that’s a REALLY good thing! Let’s pray...

“Dear God, thank you for being patient with us, even when we sometimes get angry quickly. Please help us learn to keep our cool by being patient. Thank you, God, for always hearing our prayers and helping us. We love you very much. Amen.”

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