



APRIL THEME

ROAD TRIP

Some things are worth the wait

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 32:1-35

Watch for Livestock | The Golden Calf

BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait,
think about what's true

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: What can you think about when it's hard to wait? When we're waiting, we often think about what we don't have, what we're waiting for, how long it's taking... anything besides what we should be considering—that we can trust God no matter what. Even in their waiting, we hope families can understand how they can think about what's true.

In week four of April, we head to **Exodus 32:1-35** where we find the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai. Instead of obeying God and waiting for Moses to come down off the mountain, the entire nation of Israel grew impatient. They built a golden calf and began to worship it instead of worshiping God. Their lack of patience had some severe consequences.

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think about what's true. It's easier to wait when you remember all the times God has helped you before. You can trust God, knowing that God will help you wait.

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 them. Pray that God would put truth in kids' hearts and minds, especially when they're having trouble being patient. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you words of truth to speak to kids today, as they learn how to be patient in everyday life.

•• 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 if they know any interesting facts or tidbits about anything random.
- Share some cool facts you know. (Some fun facts and videos with fun facts can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2BUMkyb>)

•• GOBBLEDYGOOK

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



What You Need: “Gobbledygook” activity page, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out copy paper and a pen to each kid.
- Assign a word from the “Gobbledygook” activity page to each kid by writing it on the top of their paper.
- Then challenge kids to come up with a definition for their word, whether it’s real or made up.
- Make sure kids understand that it’s okay not to know the real definition and that making one up can be really fun.
- When all the kids have come up with a definition for their word, let them share it with the group.
- After each kid shares, lead the group to vote on whether they think it’s the real meaning or a made-up meaning.
- When kids have voted, read the real definition of the word from the “Gobbledygook” activity page.

What You Say: “Those are some silly words! Some of those I had never even heard of. But your definitions sounded pretty realistic. We could have taken the time to find the real definitions in a dictionary, but we decided to take a shortcut. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about some people who didn’t want to wait, so they just made something up.**”

[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.

●● **REMINDS ME OF YOU** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of copy paper. Set out markers where everybody can share them.
- Let kids draw something that reminds them of God, such as a cross, a Bible, or a star.
- As they work, ask a few questions to review today’s story.
 - Where had Moses gone when the people began to get impatient? *(To the top of a mountain to talk with God)*
 - Who did Moses leave in charge? *(Aaron)*
 - What did the people use to make their false God? *(gold)*
 - Why was it a big deal that Aaron and the people made a statue out of gold? *(Because they decided to worship it instead of the one true God)*
 - What did Moses do once he found out what the people had done? *(He destroyed the golden calf)*

What You Say: “The Israelites in today’s story didn’t want to wait for Moses to come down off of the mountain to tell them the truth about what God had said. Instead, they chose to take matters into their own hands. The people had lost sight of what was true and started inventing things instead. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time you wanted to do your own thing instead of waiting for God.)** It can be tempting to just make our own decisions or do what we want instead of waiting for God’s answer to prayer. But, when we do things on our own and not according to God’s plan, they often don’t turn out the way they should. That’s why **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true.**”



•• **DEEP THOUGHTS** [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: “Deep Thoughts” activity page, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Deep Thoughts” activity page.
- Instruct kids to decorate their page by drawing their face in the outline .
- Then have kids write in the thought bubble a true thing they might be thinking about as they wait (*i.e. God is good, God answers prayers, God keeps promises, God loves us, God made us for a purpose, God is always present, etc.*)

What You Say: “Wow! You guys did a great job coming up with things that are true. We hear a lot of things every day on the news or at school or from our friends. Sometimes it can be hard to know what’s true and what’s not true. But, ultimately, we know that what God says is true. And thinking about these things can be a good thing to do to help us be patient. That’s why **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true.”

•• **WAIT FOR THE LORD** [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: Lunch bag with treats inside

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one child the bag and direct her to begin passing it around the circle.
- When you say “stop,” invite the child holding the bag to set it down on the table.
- Read today’s memory verse to the group: “*Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the LORD! Psalm 27:14*”
- Begin passing the bag around the circle again.
- Continue saying “stop” and reading the verse multiple times. Make sure your group is starting to get very tired of waiting to see what is in the bag.
- The last time you say “stop,” let the kid holding the bag open it and share the treats with the whole group.

What You Say: “Was it hard to wait to find out what was inside the bag?” (*Pause for responses.*)

“When are times that it might be really hard for you to wait? (*When I’m waiting my turn for something; when it seems like something is taking a long time; when I’m scared; etc.*) When it gets hard to wait and be patient, remember Psalm 27:14: *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the LORD (Nirv).* So **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can’t wait, don’t forget what’s true: God is faithful, God loves you, and God always keeps God’s promises!”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Kids’ drawings from the “Reminds Me of You” activity

What You Do:

- Let kids hold the drawings they made during the “Reminds Me of You” activity.



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

APRIL
15/18
2018

GRADE 2-3
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

- Ask kids to talk about what reminds them of God, whether it's nature or when someone gives them a hug or when they come to church, etc.
- Pray, using the prayer below, as kids hold their drawings. Allow a few moments for volunteers to thank God for the true things we know about God...

What You Say: "God, we pray that we would never put anything above you or in front of you. Help us to remember that you are the most important thing in our lives and you always will be. We pray that you would use the objects we drew to help us to remember your promises this week. Remind us of your words in the Bible so we will remember: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can't wait, think about what's true.**"

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, hand out **Parent Cue** cards to any family who hasn't received one yet this month.

Encourage kids show adults their drawings and tell them why they made that object.