



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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give everyone paper and pens.
- Ask kids to each create a packing list for a trip but to not let others see their lists just yet. The destination can be an actual place they have visited or would like to visit. Or it can be completely fictional and silly.
- Explain that their packing list will be the clues others will use to guess the destination.
- Give your group time to create lists of 5-10 items then let them take turns reading their lists while the others guess where they are going and why they would need to



pack those items.

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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:

- Ask kids to pair up.
- Give partners two minutes to find out two true facts and one false thing about one another.
- Bring all the groups together then let kids introduce their partners and tell the two true statements and one false statement they talked about.
- Challenge the rest of the students to name which facts are truth.

What You Say: “Finding out what’s true about someone is just as important as knowing what’s false. The same goes for knowing God, too. The Bible, God’s ‘Book of Truth’ is the best place to discover what’s been true in the past, is still true today, and will be true forever. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we are going to hear/we heard a story about a group of people who were too impatient to wait to hear truth from God.”**

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

What You Need: Straws, cotton balls, masking tape

What You Do:

- Create a starting line on your small group table using a long piece of masking tape.
- Place a second strip of tape parallel to the first on the opposite end of your table.
- Read Psalm 27:14, found on the left column of page 1 of this leader guide. Ask kids to explain how being strong—when it comes to patience—is a different type of strength than the kind that comes from muscles.
- Give each kid a straw and a cotton ball.
- Explain that they will use the straw to blow their cotton ball “cars” along the table.
- Tell them to “park” their cars anywhere between the lines of tape, depending on how patient or impatient they were this past week.
—If they had a great week, tell them to push their cars to the finish line.
—If they lost their cools and let their tempers get out of hand, tell them to park their cars closer to the starting line.
—Anywhere in between means they had some good times as well as some bad.
- After all the cars are positioned between the lines of tape, give each person time to talk about his/her week and explain why they parked their car where they did.
—Ask them to share things they are learning about patience from recent stories and principles.



—Also ask a volunteer to place another cotton ball where they think the Israelites’ cotton ball would have been, based on today’s story.

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

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

What You Need: Bible, “What’s Wrong With this Picture?” activity page, “Answer Key” activity page, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the “What’s Wrong with this Picture?” activity page and a pen.
- Tell them to find and circle seven things that are out of place in the picture.
- Encourage dialogue about things they remember from the story. When everyone is finished, refer to the “Answer Key” to make sure all the areas are circled.
- Ask kids to take one last look at the things they circled, and then turn their papers over and place them face down in front of them.
- Ask for a volunteer to find Psalm 78:10-17 in the Bible and then you read it out loud to the group one verse at a time.
- Pause after each verse and ask the group to think back on the things they circled on the activity page.
—See if they can find a connection between the verse that was just read and one of the images they circled.
—Answers can vary as students draw their own connections.
—Refer to the “Answer Key” for clarity, as some connections are more abstract than others.
- Close by praising the kids for being able to “look back” and remember the images they circled.
- Ask:
—If Israel had looked back and remembered all of the miracles, wonders, power, and provision God had demonstrated in the past, what are some things they would have been encouraged by?
—How might looking back at what they knew to be true of God have impacted the situation with the Golden Calf and Israel’s ability to wait with trust in God?
—Besides all the evidences mentioned in Psalm 78, what are some other things you know to be true about God?
—How can looking back and remembering what’s true help you wait with patience when you’re tempted to lose it?

●● **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 some of the following questions...
—Can you think of a time when you did something you weren’t supposed to because you were waiting for something and you got impatient?
—Name four things you believe, without a doubt, to be true about God. If you can, include a Bible verse or Bible story to back up the truth. (*Encourage students to look back on today’s lesson if they can’t think of other verses or stories.*)
—In what way do those things help when you’re in a situation that’s stressing you out? Share a personal example if you can.
—Israel messed up big time when they lost trust in God and decided to quit waiting. When we mess up, what can we do to make things right or better after we lose our patience?

●● **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [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: Bible, piece of string, copy paper



What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to look up and read Proverbs 16:32 out loud to the group.
- Consider one of the Sentence Starters below to initiate discussion about the meaning of the verse and how to apply it.
—I need to remember this when . . .
—I think this verse is saying . . .
—This verse challenges me to . . .
- Hand one group member the copy paper and string.
- Tell them to place the paper on the floor and then drop the string onto the paper from a standing position.
- As a group, look for an image or shape suggested by the string that can “tie in” with the verse. *(The image can either illustrate a way to live out the verse or a consequence of not doing so.)*
- Do this activity multiple times, letting different kids take turns dropping the string.

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Use this prayer time as an opportunity to challenge kids to create a habit of “praying Scripture.”
- Read all or some of the following verses out loud...
—Psalm 62:1-2
—Psalm 62:5-8
—Psalm 62:11-12
- Pause after each verse to let kids identify a truth, promise, or command and ask them to “pray the verse” in silent or spoken prayer back to God. Their prayers might include . . .
—Words of praise
—Statements of a truth they believe
—Request for help to obey a command or trust a promise
—Confession of unbelief or disobedience

What You Say: “Let’s pray. Dear God, in just one short Psalm we discovered great and awesome truths about you: you are our rock, refuge, and hope; we can trust in you and talk to you about anything at any time. All power belongs to you. How grateful we are for the way you bless those who believe your truths and follow you. Help us to look back and remember these things this week when we are tempted to lose heart or lose our temper. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

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