



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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Read the true/false statements below.
- Guide kids to clap their hands if the statement is true and stomp their feet if it is false.
- Keep interest high by varying your pace and maintaining high energy.
- You can also feign disbelief when kids declare some statements false. ("Zebras don't have rainbow stripes? When did they stop having rainbow stripes? I had no idea!") The kids will love it!
- Statements:



- The sky is blue.
- The sky is green.
- Oranges are purple.
- Oranges are orange.
- Dogs and cats have six legs.
- Fish live in trees.
- Monkeys can climb trees.
- People have three eyes.
- People have 10 ears.
- People have one mouth.

- Zebras have rainbow stripes.
- Zebras have black and white stripes.
- You see with your ears.
- You hear with your ears.
- You see with your eyes.
- You smell with your toes.
- You smell with your nose.
- God is good.
- God loves us all.
- I can trust God no matter what!

•• GONE?

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

What You Need: “Owl Babies” script, “Owl” coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out owl coloring pages and crayons.
- As kids color, read the story, Owl Babies, to the kids. Be sure to use good expression.
- As you go, ask questions such as:
 - How do you think Sarah, Percy, and Bill felt when they realized that their mommy was gone?
 - What did they think about at the beginning of the story? (*She’s gone hunting to bring us food; she’ll be back soon; “I want my mommy!”*)
 - Why do you think they thought those things? (*To help themselves feel better; Bill wanted his mommy!*)
 - What did they think about after it seemed she had been gone a long time? (*She got lost; a fox got her.*)
 - How do you think they felt then?
 - What was your favorite part of the story? Why?

What You Say: [Transition] “Today is Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about some PEOPLE who became worried when someone was gone a long time.”

[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.

•• DON’T FORGET WHAT’S TRUE [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Don’t Forget What’s True” puzzle, scissors

What You Do:

- Cut the activity page into puzzle pieces along the dotted lines.



- Work as a group to put the puzzle together.
- When finished, work together to describe what's happening in the picture.
- When kids notice the hidden words, tell them that there are six words hidden in the puzzle and that each word tells us something that's true about God.
- Work together to find each word. Help them sound them out.

What You Say: *(While pointing to the hidden words)* "God is kind, God is good, God is loving, God is powerful, God is strong, and God is true. What other things are true about God? *(God forgives us; God is everywhere; God sent Jesus; God made the world; etc.)*

"In today's Bible story, the Israelites forgot all of these things about God when they had Aaron make the golden calf. In fact, the Israelites forgot many things about God, didn't they? They forgot all the things God had done to rescue them from Egypt. They forgot all the times God had given them what they needed and protected them from their enemies. And because the Israelites forgot who God really is, they got impatient waiting for God.

"You and I need to be careful to always remember who God is so that we don't get impatient when we're waiting. So when you think you can't wait, don't forget that God is kind and good. Don't forget that God loves you and wants what's best for you. **[Bottom Line]** **When you think you can't wait, don't forget 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!"

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

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

What You Need: "Deep Thoughts" activity page, crayons

What You Do:

- Briefly review Owl Babies *(from the "Gone?" activity above)* and the fact that Sarah, Percy, and Bill tried to think about good things to help themselves feel better when their mother was gone. Make the connection that just like the three owlets waited for their mother, sometimes we have to wait for things, too.



- Brainstorm together times they might be tempted to feel worried or scared or sad while they wait for something important, such as waiting for a parent to come home from a trip, waiting for their mom or dad to get a job, waiting for their sister to finish her piano lesson, or waiting for a friend to get better.
- Help kids brainstorm true things they can think about when they're waiting: a worship song, a memory verse, a Bible story, or things that are true about God.
- Give each child a "Deep Thoughts" activity page and encourage them to draw one true thing they can think about while they wait.

What You Say: "It isn't always easy to wait, is it? **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about a time when you were tempted to become worried or sad or angry while you waited for something important. Tell kids what you did to help yourself not forget what's true.)*

"So when you're waiting and you start to feel sad or scared or worried or even angry, think about what's true. Think about how much God loves you and how much God cares for you. So **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can't wait, don't forget what's true: God loves you, and God is always with you!"

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: The kids' drawings from the "Think!" activity

What You Do:

- Ask kids to hold their drawings from the previous activity and quietly imagine themselves thinking about the thing they drew while waiting for something else to happen.
- Use a couple kids' pictures as examples, saying something like, "When Desiree thinks she can't wait, she's going to think about how much God loves her." "When Zac thinks he can't wait, he's going to remember this month's memory verse."
- Close in prayer...

What You Say: "Dear God, thank you that you are good, you are faithful, and you are powerful. Thank you that you love us more than we can imagine. Help us remember what's true about you when we wait for important things. Help us never forget that you love us and that we can trust you no matter what. Thank you, God. We love you so much! 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.

Guide kids to show parents their "Think!" drawings. Encourage them to tell parents the true thing they will think about when they wait for something important.