



APRIL THEME

ROAD TRIP

Some things are worth the wait

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 25:24-34

Souped Up | Esau's Impatience

BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait,
think twice

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 need to make the wise choice. With
God's 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 could you miss out on by not waiting? God wants the best for us. Sometimes when we're waiting, we rush to what we can get now instead of what is best. We hope that kids and their families can discover that waiting for God's best is the wisest choice they can make. We don't want families to miss out on something God has planned for them because they weren't patient.

We'll finish out the month with one of the best examples of what happens when you're not patient; you lose something of value. In **Genesis 25:24-34**, we discover the story of Esau sacrificing his birthright for a bowl of stew. Because Esau was impatient, he lost something he could never get back.

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice. Don't let your lack of patience cause you to make a decision you'll regret. Think twice about what really matters. Ask God to help you wait patiently for what matters most.

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 kids would start applying the things we've learned this month, if they haven't already. Ask God to make kids aware when they're in situations where their patience will be tested. Pray for God's strength to help kids think twice before acting impatiently. And pray that kids would be encouraged, knowing that with God's help, they can do it!

•• **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:
 - What is your favorite food to smell while it's cooking?
 - What do you think about when you smell it?
 - Is it hard for you to wait to eat it?
 - What do you do while you wait?

•• **WHICH IS BETTER?**

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:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Name a pair of items kids need to choose between, such as a cookie or a slice of cake, and direct kids to go to one side of the room if they would choose the cookie and to the other side if they would choose the slice of cake.
- Call kids back to you and continue the game.
- For successive rounds you might name:
 - Chocolate ice cream or vanilla ice cream
 - A chocolate chip cookie or a candy bar
 - Playing a video game or going to a movie
 - Playing soccer or watching TV
 - A slice of pizza or a hamburger
 - One slice of cake or a whole cake
 - A penny or a 100 dollar bill
 - Your favorite meal or a million dollars
- Add variety by guiding kids to move different ways: tiptoe, crab walk, walk sideways, walk backward, etc.
- Keep interest high by maintaining a quick pace and high energy.

What You Say: [Transition] **“Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about someone who made a choice between two things. Do you think he will make/made the wise choice?”**

[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.

•• **THINK...TWICE** [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: “Think...Twice” activity page

What You Do:

- Lead the kids in a stop-action version of charades.
- Read the scenarios on the activity page and guide kids to pantomime the situation as you read.
- Be sure to read dramatically and pause occasionally so the kids can pantomime the action.
- When you say, “Stop,” instruct kids to freeze.
- When you then say “Think...Twice,” lead kids to put one forefinger on their temple when you say “Think” and their other forefinger on their other temple when you say “Twice.”
- With kids frozen in this position, read the two choices given.
- Guide kids to pantomime the wise choice.
- At the end of the game, invite kids to tell in which of the scenarios it would be hardest for them to practice patience.



What You Say: “It’s important that we don’t make the mistake of giving up what’s best for something we want now, but sometimes waiting can be hard! When is it hard for you to wait for something? *(Pause.)*”

[Make It Personal] *(Tell kids when it’s hard for you to wait until later for something you want now. Also tell how you stop and think twice about the possible consequences and rewards.)*

“Who can help you make the wise choice to be patient? Yes! God can. So remember, **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can’t wait, think twice. Think about what you might miss out on if you don’t wait, and ask God to help you wait for what’s best!”

●● **LENTIL STEW** [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: Bowl, bag of lentils, “Stew Review” cards

What You Do:

- Guide the kids to sit in a circle. Pass a few lentils around for them to observe.
- Invite kids to name what they are *(if they know)*, and then ask them what they remember about food from the Bible story. *(Jacob made a stew, which was made with lentils.)*
- Place the lentils and the “Stew Review” cards in the bowl.
- Give one child the bowl of lentils, and guide her to quickly *(but carefully)* pass it to the child beside her.
- When you say “Stop!,” the child holding the bowl pulls out a card, shows it to the group, and together the group describes what’s happening in the picture.
- Ask prompting questions to help the kids recall as much as possible.
- Also ask questions such as:
 - How do you think Esau felt?
 - What would you have done?
 - What would have been a better choice for Esau to make?
- When all four cards have been picked, work together to put the cards in order of the story.

What You Say: “Today we’re learning that **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can’t wait, think twice. What do you think it means to think twice? *(To stop and think about something before you do it; to think about the consequences before you do something.)*”

“Did Esau stop to think twice? *(No.)* Why not? *(He was just thinking about how hungry he was and how good the stew smelled.)* What choice do you think Esau would have made if he had thought twice? *(He wouldn’t have chosen the stew. He would have made the wise choice.)*”

“Esau’s story taught us that when we have a decision to make, we need to stop and think things through. We need to make the wise choice so that we won’t miss out on God’s best for us. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** When you think you can’t wait, think twice.”

●● **SAY WHAT?** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Say What?” activity page, 3 dice

What You Do:

- Say the memory verse to your group *(found on the left column of the first page of this leader guide)* and then invite them to say it with you.
- Choose one kid to go first and roll all three dice. As a group, add up the numbers from all three dice.
- Read the action from the “Say What?” activity page that matches the number they selected. Help the dice roller recite the verse while



doing the appropriate action (*it is ok if they repeat the verse after you*).

- Repeat until every kid has a chance to roll the dice and say the verse.

What You Say: “This verse tells us twice to wait for the Lord. That must mean it’s pretty important. There are lots of times we might not want to wait for the Lord, like when we really want to know whether we got a part in the school play, or if we want to feel better right away when we are sick, or if we just want the school day to be over. But sometimes we just have to be patient and wait to see what will happen while we are waiting. Sometimes it’s just not good to rush things, but rather **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

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 prompting questions to briefly review the Bible story and how Esau’s lack of patience cost him a great deal.
- Emphasize that **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, think twice.**

What You Say: “What are some times when it’s hard for you to wait? (*Pause.*) If it’s hard for you to wait when you see something delicious that you want to eat, show me ‘think twice’ (*do the motion—one forefinger on your temple and then the other—for the kids to copy*). If it’s hard for you to wait for something you really want, like a pet or a video game or cool toy, show me ‘think twice.’ If it’s hard for you to wait when there’s something you really want to do, like playing with your friends or going to an amazingly fun place, show me ‘think twice.’

“Sometimes it can be really hard to wait. But who can help us when we need to wait? Yes! God can. Let’s pray and ask God to help us when we need to wait...”

“Dear God, your Word tells us to wait for you. Lord, please help us make the wise choice to wait for you and for your best. Help us not be foolish like Esau. When we think we can’t wait, help us think twice. Thank you, God, that when we wait for you we NEVER miss out on what’s best. We love you, Lord. Amen.”

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

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their adults what they can do when they think they can’t wait. (*Do the “think twice” motion.*)