



APRIL THEME

ROAD TRIP

Some things are worth the wait

BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 1:6—2:1

Baby on Board | Hannah Prays for a Baby

Spark Story Bible

Hannah Prays for a Child pg. 118-121

BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it

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: When is it hard to have patience? Often kids don't plan on being impatient; they just find themselves in situations where their patience is tried. As we get older though, we're able to understand the sorts of moments where we might find ourselves needing a good dose of patience. We hope that families start to discover the times they might need patience and figure out what God can help them do about it.

For our first week focused on patience, we look to **1 Samuel 1:6—2:1** where we discover the story of Hannah. She had waited years for a child. Rather than become frustrated and angry toward God, she prays and tells God all about it. When God answers her prayer, she gives her son back to God. God honored her waiting and blessed her with even more children.

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it. It's important for us all to remember that talking to God about waiting will help us stay patient through whatever circumstance we might face. God may not change our circumstance, but God will give us the strength to keep waiting well.

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 that kids would walk away from today with tangible ways to practice patience when it's hard. Pray that kids would understand that God wants to help them and wants to hear from them when they're struggling. Pray that kids understand that while God's answers might not always look like what they expect, God is present with them nonetheless.

•• 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 about something they are looking forward to. Do they have a vacation coming up? Are they excited for summer? Is their birthday soon?
- Ask them how they are doing waiting for whatever thing they are excited about.

•• VIEW ALONG THE WAY

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



What You Need: Copy paper, scissors, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out copy paper and scissors and instruct kids to each cut one piece of paper down the middle, lengthwise.
- Then instruct them to cut the two strips width-wise two more times so they have six squares.
- Tell kids to pretend that they went on a trip (*it could be to anywhere they want*).
- Instruct kids to draw pictures in their squares as if they are pictures they took along the way while they were on their pretend trip.
- As time allows, let kids share their pictures with the group.

What You Say: “Those sound like some pretty amazing trips! You guys are giving me a travel bug. Having a fun trip coming up can be fun to look forward to but also hard to wait for. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to talk about someone who was waiting for something for a VERY 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.

•• **REVIEW JUMBLE** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bible, “How To” and “Review Questions” activity pages, copy paper, scissors, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out one “How To” activity page and a piece of copy paper to each kid.
- Help kids follow the instructions on the activity page to make a cootie catcher with the numbers 1 through 8 written on the inside folds.
- When all kids have finished making their cootie catchers, let kids take turns using the cootie catcher to choose a question.
- To do this:
 - Open/close the cootie catcher one time for each letter in their first name (*i.e. A-D-A-M would be four times*).
 - When they finish, the cootie catcher should be opened up to four numbers.
 - Choose one of those four numbers and ask them the question from the Activity Page that aligns with that number. (*Note: If the kids aren’t sure of the answer, encourage them to ask a friend or to look up the story in the Bible: 1 Samuel 1:6–2:1.*)
 - Try to pick a question that has not yet been asked.
 - If all the available numbers have already been asked, ask the second question listed under the number chosen.

What You Say: “The story today was about a woman who wanted a baby of her very own. You are not exactly old enough to be a mom or dad, but I bet there is something you are waiting for. Whether it’s summer break or your birthday or a trip you have coming up or a big game, performance, or recital—we all have things we are looking forward to. The important thing is to be patient as we wait for whatever it is we are looking forward to and believe that God’s timing is perfect. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you were waiting for something and you felt like it should have already happened. Were you able to wait patiently and see that God’s timing is perfect? Did you grow impatient, and did it challenge your faith?)** One of the best things we can do when we are trying to be patient is to pray. We can tell God what we are waiting for and why we are so excited. We can even tell God all about how hard it is to wait. The important thing is that **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**”



●● **PUZZLE THROUGH IT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Puzzle Through It” activity pages, scissors

What You Do:

- Ask kids to get into teams of two.
- When you say, “Go,” teams will compete to cut up and reassemble the pieces as quickly as possible.
—Instruct one teammate to cut out the puzzle while his partner faces the other direction.
—Then, when the person who did the cutting is finished, he should mix up the pieces and then let his partner know the pieces are ready.
—The second partner will then turn around and work to put the pieces of the puzzle together as quickly as possible while the first partner turns away.
- Invite kids to encourage each other with their words and cheer each other on while they are waiting.
- The winners are whichever team finishes first.
- If time allows, mix up ALL of the puzzle pieces and put them in the center of your table. Teams should compete to be the first to find a complete set of pieces and assemble them into the picture.

What You Say: “Sometimes we are put into situations where we have no choice but to be patient. For instance, we might be waiting in line somewhere or waiting for something to start, like a movie or show. When that happens and we have no choice but to wait, we need to find a way to be patient. Those are good times to take a moment to pray, because **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**”

●● **HOLD YOUR TONGUE** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Use the Bible to look up this month’s memory verse—Psalm 27:14.
- Say the verse together as a group a few times to memorize it.
- Then ask kids to try saying it again, but this time they have to hold onto their tongues while they say it.
- If time and interest allow, see if any kids want to try to say it individually while holding their tongue.

What You Say: “Our verse this month tells us to wait for the Lord by being strong and not losing hope. Sometimes that can be much easier said than done. What are some ways you can be strong and hopeful when you are waiting? (*Pause for responses.*) Those are some great ideas! One of the best ways to be strong and hopeful is to pray, because **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, talk to God about it.**”

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 kids about times when they have had a hard time being patient.
—If they have a hard time thinking of examples, prompt them with: sitting in traffic in the car, when someone in their family is typically always running late, or when they're waiting for a turn on playground equipment or during PE class.
- Tell kids that sometimes talking to God either quietly or by praying out loud can help us when we need to be patient.
- Pray in a quiet voice, using the guide below...

What You Say:

“Thank you, God, for helping us get through times when we have to wait. It can be hard to be patient but, with you, we can be strong and hopeful in every situation. Help us to remember that **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, talk to God about it.**”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to recite today's Bottom Line **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, talk to God about it**” while holding their tongues.