



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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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:

- Invite students to take turns sharing their travel experiences.
- Prompt ideas by asking questions about some the...
 - Worst food
 - Noisiest hotel room
 - Best rest stop



- Friendliest people
- Best junk food
- Biggest crowd
- Most unusual restaurant
- Most memorable stranger
- Most fun activity
- Best and worst weather

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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 a pen and a sheet of paper.
- Choose one person to jot down his answer to one of the questions listed below.
- Without anyone seeing what he wrote, ask the other kids to write down what they think his answer will be.
- Compare and give points to anyone who matches the original answer.
- Choose another student then play again until everyone has had at least one turn.
- Questions:
 - What do you do first thing in the morning?
 - What is the first thing you do when you get home from school?
 - What part of a meal do you like to eat first?
 - What's the first thing that pops into your head when you think of "puppies"?
 - What was the first word you said today?
 - What is the first thing you do when you get to church?
 - If you got a new phone, what's the first thing you'd do?
 - When you have extra money, what's the first thing you like to spend it on?
 - What's the first thing you do when you're frustrated with someone?
 - What's the first thing you do when it's time to go to bed?

What You Say: "Those were great answers and great guesses. Often the things we choose to do first are the things we want to do most or the stuff we feel is important. Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll talk/we talked about something that's a very wise and important first 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.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [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 if your group has ever heard the phrase, “hold your tongue.” Let them share what they think that phrase means.
- Next, ask everyone to think of a time when they felt frustrated and when being patient or “holding their tongues” was a challenge.
- Without mentioning names and while holding their tongues (*literally*), let the kids take turns telling their stories in 3-4 sentences.
- After each story, let those who were listening ask a few questions to make sure they understood what the person holding his tongue actually said.
- If time allows, let kids hold their tongues once again, but this time ask them to share a few sentences about times when they were patient and were able to hold back their angry words and tempers.

●● **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 You Do:

- Ask your group to take turns sharing one or two sentences about the following things they remember from today’s story:
 - Something hurtful, unkind, or wrong
 - A person or situation that made someone impatient, frustrated, or angry
 - Something sad or disappointing
 - Something happy
- Ask someone to look up Colossians 1:11 and read it aloud.
- Remind kids that this verse was written long after the book of 1 Samuel, but truths in God’s Word stand strong no matter how many years go by.
- Invite everyone to comment on whether they think Hannah lived out Colossians 1:11.
- Then, as a group, think of examples from 1 Samuel 1 to support their answers (*Kids can look up and re-read 1 Samuel 1:6-11, 27-28 if they need to refresh their memories.*)
- By way of application, encourage kids to share actual examples from their lives in which they need to go to God for help to be patient.

●● **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...

- What are the signs that you’re about to lose your patience? What sets you off? Why might it be helpful to know those signals?
- What might be the benefits of prayer during times when we have to wait for a long time?
- Name some ways God helps us to be patient when we’re in a long waiting period for something the way Hannah was.
- God always answers our prayers, but God’s answers aren’t always “YES.” What can you do when God’s answer is “NO” or “KEEP WAITING?”
- When you’re feeling stressed or frustrated, what can you do to avoid losing your patience in the first place?

●● **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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



What You Need: Bible, pens, “Always Pray” activity page

What You Do:

- Ask kids to take turns finishing this sentence: “I can always...”
- After everyone has taken a turn, if none of the students finished their sentences with, “I can always pray,” stop and remind them of God’s desire for us to pray anytime, anywhere, and at ALL times.
- Hand out an “Always Pray” activity page and a pen to each group member.
- As a group, look up the verses on the “Always Pray” activity page then fill in the blanks with the missing words. (*Answers are at the bottom of this page.*)
- As you complete the verses, invite kids to write an answer to the Sentence Starter below each verse. (*Sentence Starter: I need to remember this verse when...*)
- As time allows, let students share some of the sentences they wrote.

Answers to “Always Pray” Fill-in-the-Blanks...

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (*NirV*) “Never stop praying.”

Colossians 4:2 (*NirV*) “Give a lot of time and effort to prayer. Always be watchful and thankful.”

1 Chronicles 16:11 (*NirV*) “Look to the Lord and to his strength. Always look to him.”

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:

- Read Psalm 27:14 aloud.
- Challenge your group to ask God’s help to live out Psalm 27:14 this week.
- Re-read the first part of the verse (*“Wait for the Lord”*). Ask the kids to kneel down as an outward expression of their trust in God.
- Invite them to repeat the following prayer with you:

“Lord, help us wait for you when we’re tempted this week to be impatient or to give up. Help us remember to trust you while we wait because we know that your timing is always perfect.”

- Read the second part of Psalm 27:14 (*“Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the Lord!”*). Ask kids to stand up as an expression of their desire to be strong for God this week.
- Invite them to repeat the following prayer with you:

“Lord, thank you for being our strong and powerful God. Please help us to be strong when we face situations this week that are frustrating and try our patience. Remind us to come to you for the help we need to wait. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card as families arrive to pick up. Ask kids to tell their parents what they learned they should do when they think they can’t wait.