



MARCH THEME



BIBLE STORY

Exodus 32:1-35

Waiting, Wishing | Golden Calf

BOTTOM LINE

When you have to wait,
remember 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

●● THEME OVERVIEW

Key Question: What can you think about when it's hard to wait? Having a strategy when it comes to waiting is a great way to have patience. We pray that as we discover more about patience, we'll consider all of the truth of Scripture, the ways God has helped us in the past, and the hope we can have knowing God will help us in the future. Waiting might be hard, but God can help us wait well.

In week two, we head to **Exodus 32:1-35**. Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. He left his brother, Aaron, and the rest of the Israelites to wait. Rather than waiting patiently for Moses to return, the entire nation of Israel rebelled. They built a golden calf and began to worship it instead of worshiping God. And because of their lack of patience, God judged an entire nation. If only they had remembered how God rescued them from Egypt and trusted God while they waited.

Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember what's true. We can't avoid having to wait, but we can choose how we respond. A good way to discover patience is to think about what's true about God: God loves us and knows what's the best for us. God cares for us and is with us. We can trust God no matter what. We pray that we remember what's true about God when we have to wait.

●● WOW @home

What You Do: Watch this week's WOW @home in the comfort of your family's @home prayer + worship spot. The video can be found on popmn.org/youtube or facebook.com/popchildrens. Then use this Family Guide, GodTime & ParentCue cards, and FAITH5 daily devos as personal devotionals and to keep the conversation going...

●● TRUE OR FALSE [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Explain that you will read several fun statements, and your family will guess whether the fact is true or false.
- If they think the statement is true, they will run to the right side of the room.
- If they think it is false, they will run to the left side of the room.
- Read each statement and allow enough time for players to determine an answer by running to their selected space.
- Encourage players to make their own decision and stick with it instead of waiting to see what other players do.

- Return to the center of your room between each round. Continue until all statements are read.

Fun statements:

- When an octopus gets angry, it shoots out a stream of purple ink. (*False; it shoots out black ink.*)
- Giraffes have black tongues. (*True*)
- Alligators cannot move backward. (*True*)
- Octopuses have two hearts. (*False; they have three hearts.*)
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. (*True*)
- In one day, your heart beats about 50,000 times. (*False; it beats about 100,000 times.*)
- It takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile. (*True*)
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open. (*True*)
- There is only one word in the English dictionary that rhymes with "purple." (*False; there are no words that rhyme with purple.*)
- The first animal sent into outer space was a cat. (*False; it was a dog.*)

What You Say: "Wow! The true statements were extremely fun facts. Have you ever heard some of these facts before? (*Allow time for responses.*) Super cool! Sometimes, the truth can be strange and interesting, like these facts we just learned. This week's Bible story, taught us just how powerful the truth is and how it can help us have patience."

What You Do:

- Review this week's Bible story: Exodus 32:1-35.
- Encourage your family to come up with ideas for how the Israelites could have shown patience in their situation instead of building the statue of the golden calf.
- Prompt them with ideas like:
 - They could have remembered God's truth.
 - They could have talked about all the promises God had made for them and kept in the past.
 - They could have done something to occupy their time so they didn't panic.

What You Say: "You know, it's easy for us to be shocked about what the Israelites did when they didn't choose to be patient. It's easy for us to point fingers and wonder how they could just forget about everything God had rescued them from. The thing is, it's easy for all of us to grow impatient and forget God's truth for us when we have to wait. **[Make it Personal]** (*Tell your family about a time you had to wait and were tempted to forget God's truth and goodness. Maybe a friend was chronically or terminally ill or you lost a job and God didn't provide a new job for you right away like you thought God should or would.*) **[Bottom Line]** **When you have to wait, remember what's true.** The next time you feel like the Israelites did, and you start of feel impatient because the wait is SO LONG, remember that God will help you find the patience to wait."

•• **BACK IN THE JAR!** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Plastic cups, yarn, ping pong balls, tape, scissors, (*optional*) permanent markers

What You Do:

- Ask your family if they've ever wished they could skip dinner and go straight for dessert.
- Tell them that today, they get to show they have patience and put their cookie (*ping pong ball*) back in the jar!
- Hand out the yarn and ping pong balls.
- If you provided markers, let family members carefully decorate their ping pong balls with "chocolate chips" or "rainbow sprinkles" so they look like cookies.
- Help your family construct their ball-in-the-cup games using the directions below:
 - Cut a small hole in the bottom of the cup.

—Insert yarn through the hole from the outside.

—Secure the yarn inside the cup with a small piece of tape.

—Wrap the other end of the yarn around the ping pong ball and secure it with tape.

• When the ball-in-the-cup games are finished, instruct your family to hold their cup and move it back and forth to swing the ping pong ball. Then, they should swing it up and attempt to land the ball in the cup.

• If they're successful, they "put the cookie back in the jar!"

• As your family plays with their new games, ask them to tell you about times when it's difficult for them to wait.

What You Say: "You can always remember what is true each time you have to wait for something. When we have to wait to eat our favorite cookie until after dinner, the truth is that if we eat it first, we will get full before we eat the stuff that's really good for us! When you're waiting for your mom to finish her work so she can play with you, you can remember that she loves playing with you and she keeps her promises. When you're waiting for your teacher to finish a conversation with another teacher, remember that your teacher is awesome! He won't make you wait forever! No matter what waiting games come your way this week, **[Bottom Line] when you have to wait, remember what's true.**"

•• **DE-CODED** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "De-Coded" activity page (pg 5; 1 per 2 people), "Code Card" activity page (pg 7), pencils, Bible

What You Do:

• Give a "De-Coded" half page and a pencil to each family member.

• Place the "Code Card" in the middle of the table for everyone to share.

• Instruct players to use the different codes on the code card to fill in the blanks on their paper by matching the number below the blank with the letter associated with it on the code.

• For example, 12 = W. Anywhere there's a 12 under a blank, they should write "W" in the blank.

• Once everyone is done, use the Bible to check if they cracked the code correctly.

What You Say: "Let's look at our codes and read the verse together. Ready? (*Read the verse out loud with your family.*) Great! Let's do it one more time. (*Read the verse out loud with your family.*) The verse is clear. It even says it twice! We should wait for the Lord! **[Bottom Line] When you have to wait, remember what's true.**" **[Make it Personal]** (*Tell your family about a time you had to wait for the Lord.*)

•• **STRONG TOWER** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible, timer or phone timer, mini marshmallows, toothpicks

What You Do:

• Look up and read Psalm 27:14 out loud as a family.

• Split into two teams and provide each team with a bag of mini marshmallows and a container of toothpicks.

• Give teams five minutes to build a strong tower with only the supplies they were given.

• The team with not just the tallest but the strongest tower, wins the game.

What You Say: "It would have been really easy to lose hope in the midst of building a strong tower with just toothpicks and marshmallows! But, you didn't let a lack of supplies or time get in your way. You gave it your best shot. Sometimes, waiting on something that is important to us can feel a lot like building a strong tower with marshmallows. You may think you will just explode if you have to wait one more second! But **[Bottom Line] when you have to wait, remember what's true.** What's true is that we can trust God's Word and we can wait on God. What's true is that we can trust God because

God will always be our strong tower and help us stay patient!”

●● **PRAY** [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Remind your family that they can remember what’s true and they can ask God to help them have patience with the small things and the big things they face each day.
—Sometimes, we let impatience get the best of us, but we can remember that God has a plan for us and is always there for us.
- Ask your family to share things they know to be true of God (*God loves us; God has a plan for us; God wants what’s best for us; God will help us be patient.*).
- Close in prayer...

What You Say: “Dear God, in this year where we have experienced a lot of waiting, there are times when we just wish we didn’t have to wait. We thank you for teaching us today that **[Bottom Line] when you have to wait, remember what’s true.** Help us, this week, to focus on the truths we know each time we need to be patient! Thank you for helping us stay strong and trust in you while we wait. We love you! Thank you for loving us. Amen.”

●● **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Looking for a devo for your kids? Looking for a personal devotional? Want to keep the conversation going? Check out the following resources at popmn.org/cm. Use them this week to continue the conversation around our **[Bottom Line]: When you have to wait, remember what’s true.**

GodTime Card | A 4-day devotional for elementary-aged kids based this week’s theme, kicked off on WOW @home

ParentCue | A tool for parents based on the weekly theme. Also available as an app, it sends alerts and encouragement specific to the age of your children (parentcue.org)

FAITH5 | A 6-day family devotional designed around Faith Inkubators’ FAITH5

●● **WHAT’S NEXT**

Set a reminder to join us next week for WOW @home on Wednesday 03/17 at 6:00 pm live at [facebook.com/popchildrens](https://www.facebook.com/popchildrens) or popmn.org/youtube for a time of worship centered around the **[Bottom Line]: If you don’t wait, it could cost you.”**

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$\frac{47}{47} \frac{42}{42} \frac{19}{19} \frac{32}{32} \frac{4}{4}$ **27:14**

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$\frac{47}{47} \frac{42}{42} \frac{19}{19} \frac{32}{32} \frac{4}{4}$ **27:14**

A = 19	B = 9	C = 27	D = 1	E = 36	F = 21
G = 50	H = 43	I = 31	J = 35	K = 14	L = 32
M = 4	N = 15	O = 22	P = 47	Q = 26	R = 2
S = 42	T = 8	U = 20	V = 37	W = 12	X = 40
Y = 5	Z = 10				